

The Island Current

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One Dollar

Coldplay? 2016 CILL Season Begins

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER and KAREN NANI



Photos by RICK DeWITT

It was a chilly start to the 2016 Little League season on April 9, but the baseball tradition dating back to 1900 is alive and warm on City Island. There are major, minor and t-ball teams competing once again this season. The ceremonial first pitch was thrown by outgoing president John Tomsen, who was also awarded a framed jersey by the new league president, Dom Esposito (right, top photo). New York State Assemblyman Michael Benedetto joined Catherine Ambrosini, Mr. Esposito and Mr. Tomsen (second photo, l. to r.) for the season opener. The American Legion color guard bearers led the teams in the "Star Spangled Banner." As the weather warms up, head down to Ambrosini Field next to P.S. 175 and catch some of the exciting games. Don't forget to visit the concession stand!

Braving the elements was the theme of the 2016 City Island Little League (CILL) season opening day on April 9. The new league president, Dominic Esposito, welcomed the shivering players, coaches and special guests who gathered on Ambrosini Field to continue a City Island tradition that dates back to 1900.

"Our goal from t-ball all the way through the majors is to teach players the game of baseball, instill the values of teamwork and sportsmanship, and make sure we all have plenty of fun," Mr. Esposito told the crowd.

He recognized the brave special guests in attendance, including New York State Assemblyman Michael Benedetto and Kathy Ambrosini. "Mrs. Ambrosini is the wife of the great Anthony Ambrosini, whose name adorns this park. Ambro, as he was known, spent years guiding generations of youth on the Island and his name is

synonymous with City Island athletics."

He also thanked the Leonard H. Hawkins Post 156 for providing the color guard for the festivities and then acknowledged the all-important sponsors: JP's Restaurant, Sammy's Fish Box, American Legion Post 156, The Gilder Scholarship Fund, Seafood City, Jacks Bait & Tackle, Local 79 Laborers, Crab Shanty, Seashore Restaurant, Dugout Sporting Goods, Amanda Bear Party Rentals, and the City Island Theater Group.

"Their support and generosity helps the league thrive. Sponsor funds are used to keep league fees manageable for our parents and give us the means to purchase top of the line equipment and new uniforms," Mr. Esposito explained.

He then recognized the 2016 CILL board members: vice president Arturo Mazzeo, treasurer George Spencer, player agent Edward Esposito, safety officer Ma-



ria Piri, concession stand managers Jim and Sue Goonan, and equipment manager Lou Lomanaco. Several of these board members have served multiple terms on the board.

Mr. Esposito gave special thanks to the outgoing president, John Tomsen, who threw out the first pitch. "John has been president of the CILL since 2009

and singlehandedly did the job of several people. Even though his boys aged out of the league, John still dedicates his time to help." He presented John with a framed CILL jersey and a plaque in appreciation for his support of the league and the City Island community.

"As many of you know, volunteering time is a family commitment. Whether it

Continued on page 19

2016 Primary Election Results: So Goes City Island

By FRED W. RAMFTL JR.

Throughout New York State, this year's presidential primary election drew a high voter turnout on April 19. On City Island more than 800 residents made their way through the back door of the P.S. 175 gym to cast ballots for both the Democrat and Republican presidential candidates, along with their supporting delegates.

One Islander, Josephine Heck of Fordham Street, was actually on the ballot as a delegate for Democratic candidate Bernie Sanders. Another longtime friend of City Island, Councilman James Vacca, ran as a delegate for Democrat Hillary Clinton.

The voting was not without glitches. When the polls opened at 6 a.m. at P.S. 175, poll workers had not been given the code to activate the scanners, which read the voting sheets completed by each resident. Early voters had to use "emergency ballots" to cast their votes until the scanners came online at 9 a.m. This caused

more than one Islander to wax nostalgic about the old voting booths that operated with levers and didn't need electronic coding to start up.

Below are the unofficial results. No delegate count numbers were available yet, as they are given only by congressional district.

Race/Candidate	# C.I. Votes	%
Democratic Presidential Nominee		
Hillary Clinton	295	56%
Bernie Sanders	236	44%
Statewide winner: Hillary Clinton (58%)		

Republican Presidential Nominee		
Donald Trump	197	70%
John Kasich	50	18
Ted Cruz	30	11
Ben Carson	2	1
Statewide Winner: Donald Trump (60%)		

BRIEFLY...

BRONX MASONS BLOOD DRIVE will take place on Tuesday, May 10, from 3:30 to 7:45 p.m. at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street. Almost anyone between the ages of 17 and 75, weighing a minimum of 110 pounds and in good general health, can be a blood donor. Photo or signature ID and Social Security Number are required at the time of donation. Please come and give the gift of life.

GRACE CHURCH TAG SALE AND CAFÉ: On Saturday, May 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Grace Episcopal Church will offer a day of bargains, baked goods, raffles and a hearty lunch served in the café. For more information, call 718-885-1080.

BARTOW-PELL CENTENNIAL PLANT SALE will be held on Saturday, May 21, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (rain date Sunday, May 22), offering over 100 varieties of annuals, perennials and herbs inspired by the formal gardens, plus an edible gardening workshop in the children's garden from 10 to 12 noon, potting demonstrations and a book signing.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MIRIAM KLEINBERG: The Kleinberg family invites friends and neighbors of longtime City Island resident and teacher Miriam Kleinberg to join them in a celebration of her life on Saturday, May 21, at 1:30 p.m. in the parish hall of Grace Episcopal Church, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street. Light refreshments will be served.

LEGION ESSAY CONTEST: The Americanism essay contest encourages all eighth-grade residents of City Island to express in 500 words their understanding and appreciation of our veterans, our freedoms and our flag. This year's topic is the three aspects of Americanism: what freedom means to you; what you know about flag etiquette and what is the importance of our enlisted men. Deadline for the essay will be May 31, 2016. All essays should be mailed to the attention of Anne McIntyre at Leonard Hawkins Post 156, 550 City Island Avenue, Bronx NY 10464.

SAFE BOATING COURSE: The City Island Sail and Power Squadron will conduct a three-week safe boating course at the City Island Yacht Club, 63 Pilot Street, on Tuesday, May 10, 17 and 24, at 7 p.m. The course is open to adults and teenagers. Topics include boat handling, navigational rules, emergencies, and both state boating and personal watercraft certifications. Instruction is free. The cost of student materials is \$45. For information and registration, e-mail cityislandabc@gmail.com. You can also call Amy Hawley at 718-309-5734.

"LOVE, SEX AND THE IRS," a comedy by Billy Van Zandt and Jane Milmore, will be presented by the City Island Theater Group on two weekends in May: Friday and Saturday, May 13 and 14, at 8 p.m., and Sunday, May 15, at 3 p.m., followed by Friday and Saturday, May 20 and 21, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, May 22, at 3 p.m. For tickets, call 718-885-3066 or e-mail tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com. Tickets may also be purchased online by visiting www.cityislandtheatergroup.com.



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

Police responded to an emergency on City Island Avenue at the Sunoco station on April 1, 2016. An off-Island male was stabbed in the back by a suspect who fled the scene. The victim was taken away by ambulance while police investigated the incident. On April 14, detectives from the 45th Precinct arrested an off-Island male and charged him with felony assault and criminal possession of a weapon related to the stabbing.

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GRAND OPENING OF 239 CITY ISLAND AVENUE. On Friday, May 20, from 5 to 9 p.m., Dan Treiber and Reina Mia Brill, the proud new owners of the former Trader John store at the corner of Schofield Street, will launch their new shop. They have been running a very successful business called Dan's Parents' House at the Brooklyn Flea Market for the past seven years and are excited to bring the home base of the business to City Island. The building will continue to be a second-hand shop specializing in 1950s to 1990s toys and collectibles, nautical antiques and objects of interest for all ages. The couple and their four-year-old twins are looking forward to being an integral part of the City Island community for years to come. All proceeds from the opening will be used to help restore the building. Entertainment and light refreshments provided.

WARRIORS FOOTBALL REGISTRATION: Registration for the 2016 season of Warriors Football will be on Saturday, May 7, 14 and 21 at Rice Stadium in Pelham Bay Park next to the running track. Registration will be rain or shine, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registrants should be accompanied by an adult and bring a copy of their birth certificate. Flag football is available for boys and girls ages 5 to 7. Tackle football is available for boys and girls ages 7 to 14 in several different age and weight divisions. Ages are determined as of Aug. 1, 2016. The season runs from August through November. For more information and fees, call Jerry Demers at 718-829-7574 or visit the website www.bronxwarriorsfootball.org.

GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL LUNCHEON will be held on Thursday, May 19, at noon at the City Island Yacht Club. The theme this year is "Lilacs," and there will be raffles and a delicious lunch; the cost is \$55. Make your reservation now by calling Vivi McGuire at 718-885-1442 by May 15 with your reservation and your choice of entrée (salmon with beurre blanc sauce, stuffed chicken breast with spinach and mushrooms with sage sauce or spring vegetarian pasta).

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during March and April 2016. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 1 – BURGLARY
- 1 – GRAND LARCENY
- 1 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 1 – FELONY ASSAULT
- 1 – ASSAULT
- 1 – PETIT LARCENY

Police provided details on the following incidents and arrests for the period from March 21 to April 19, 2016.

3/25 – An off-Island female reported an incident of grand larceny on City Island Avenue. The victim reported that her wallet, credit cards and cell phone were stolen from a commercial establishment after she left them unattended in the ladies' room.

3/27 – Police from the 45th Precinct are investigating a burglary on King Avenue. An Island male reported the theft of motorcycles and bicycles, which were removed after the locks were broken.

4/1 – Police responded to a report of an assault on City Island Avenue at a commercial establishment at 11:15 a.m. A physical

altercation between two men escalated and an off-Island male, 45, was stabbed in the back and slashed on the upper left arm. The suspect fled the scene in a vehicle, and the victim was taken by ambulance to a local hospital, where it was determined that his left lung had been punctured. On April 14, detectives arrested an off-Island male, 24, and charged him with felony assault and criminal possession of a weapon. According to police, the suspect is not related to the victim.

4/14 – At 2:28 p.m., the owner of the vehicle reported that his license plate had been intentionally removed while it was parked at a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue.

4/15 – An Island female reported an incident of criminal mischief at 10 p.m. The victim was at home when a male suspect banged on her door, kicked the door and broke the doorknob. The suspect verbally threatened the victim, causing her to fear for her safety.

4/18 – On City Island Avenue, an off-Island female reported an assault at 10 p.m. The victim claims that an unknown female struck her with a bat and then fled the scene. Note: The 45th Precinct confirmed that a patrol car will be stationed at the beginning of City Island Avenue near the bridge for the duration of the Verizon strike.

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Shore Road: Enough Is Enough

By TOMMY BREEN



Photos by JAMES BREEN

This aerial photograph was taken on Feb. 15, 2016, with the help of a drone, while James and Tommy Breen were filming "Shore Road Dangers." At right Tommy is being interviewed by Anthony Carlo of News12 The Bronx on April 17.

In the months since my brother, James, and I released the short video "Shore Road Dangers," a great deal of attention has been given to the awful conditions of Shore Road that runs through Pelham Bay Park. The 90-second film highlighted the problems from both the air and the ground, capturing numerous close calls with the potential for tragic accidents.

Avid runners and City Islanders Kristen and Jim Devane can be seen holding hands as they carefully skated across a section of the frozen pedestrian pathway. The spot we chose is the worst section of Shore Road, located about a third of a mile north of the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum. Drivers and pedestrians traveling from City Island to Westchester on Shore Road after the Bartow Circle are faced with many hazards.

There are numerous problems in the stretch of road that winds for nearly a mile and a half before reaching Pelham Manor. Many guardrails are smashed or missing; tree limbs are growing into power lines or hanging over the roadway, rows of broken street lights create unnecessary risk to drivers and pedestrians. Non-stop flooding occurs in the low points along Shore Road, and this is the most serious danger, since the flooding erodes the road in those areas, causing hard-to-avoid giant potholes to form.

As we all know, when the temperatures drop below freezing, the low-lying areas of flooding on Shore Road turn to ice. The rock salt spread by the city creates puddles of water in the road, and as vehicles drive through, they splash the water onto the sides of the road where it refreezes. The combination of the ice and the large potholes forces drivers to navigate down the middle of the road to avoid these dangers.

When my brother and I viewed Shore Road from above with our drone, we could see the movement of traffic clearly. The worn-out double yellow lines in the middle

of the road attest to the fact that you cannot safely stay in your lane in these areas.

Since the film first appeared on social media on Feb. 16, the public and the television news media have rallied to the cause. TV reports have done an excellent job continuing to highlight the problems on Shore Road and pressing the city for answers. NBC, NY1 and News 12 The Bronx have reported five times on this neglected, heavily traveled roadway, helping to keep the issue alive by broadcasting to a large audience the need for major change. They have also obtained official statements from the Mayor's office, the Department of Transportation (DOT) and Councilman James Vacca regarding the many long- and short-term changes that are needed to make Shore Road safe.

The City Island Civic Association has been pressing the city for improvements on Shore Road, in addition to other areas throughout Pelham Bay Park that need attention. On Feb. 23 the association sent a letter to all agencies responsible for maintaining Pelham Bay Park and pointed out the flooding on Shore Road, out-of-order street lights and the lack of permanent signage warning of the many deer that wander across the roads. Some streetlights in the park have recently been repaired or replaced.

NYC Councilman James Vacca said, "Shore Road requires a total reconstruction. It has no curbs, inadequate drainage and poor surface condition. Pending a major reconstruction project funded by the city, I have asked that interim repairs be made to ensure the safety of the road. I have also requested that the appropriate city agencies, namely DOT, DEP and Parks, work together to determine jurisdictional issues and a firm timetable for these repairs. DOT filled potholes but has not explained what further interim measures will be taken in the near term."

The New York State DOT report in 2011 stated that nearly 4,400,000 vehicles travel this stretch of road every year. I recently learned from Pelham historian Blake Bell that flooding on Shore Road "has been a problem for more than 160 years." It is clear that Shore Road needs a top-to-bottom reconstruction, which would include elevating the road where necessary and installing proper drainage. A solution to this problem is long overdue, and the city must move ahead now to determine what needs to be done to permanently rectify the situation, secure the funds and move the project forward.



RODMAN'S NECK: THE BEAT GOES ON

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by KAREN NANI

Commissioner William Bratton visited City Island in July 2015 (shown above, second from right, with Civic Association officers) and announced plans to renovate the firing range at Rodman's Neck. He vowed to construct sound abatement and reaffirmed this commitment in a letter he wrote to the Civic Association on March 16, 2016, but again gave no schedule for the sound abatement aspect of the project.

Now that the warm weather has arrived, people are beginning to spend more time outdoors, and the noise from the Rodman's Neck firing range has become more noticeable, not just on City Island but across Eastchester Bay in several communities there. The noise of gunfire is even audible in classrooms at Villa Maria Academy.

Thanks to the efforts of Councilman James Vacca, State Senator Jeff Klein, Comptroller Scott Stringer, Community Board 10 and the City Island Civic Association, the New York Police Department (NYPD) has finally begun to respond to various community complaints, although no specific information regarding the noise issue has been released.

In 2007 the NYPD announced plans to move the firing range to Queens, but Commissioner William Bratton reversed this decision, made by his predecessor, late in 2014. When he visited City Island, for the first time, in July 2015 (when the range was not in use), he announced that he planned to renovate the range, and he vowed to construct sound abatement, although he gave no timetable and no funding had been allocated beyond the design stage. He reaffirmed this commitment in a letter he wrote to the Civic Association on March 16 but again gave no schedule for the sound abatement aspect of the project.

According to Councilman Vacca, the NYPD budget for fiscal year 2017 includes \$150 million in capital funding specifically for Rodman's Neck. This has yet to be approved by the city, however, and a schedule for the sound abatement segment has not been announced. Mr. Vacca attended a budget hearing with the NYPD in late March and made it clear to the Commissioner that

sound abatement was a high priority for his district.

In the meantime, the Civic Association is discussing the noise issue with communities across the Sound and exploring the hiring of a sound engineer to test the acoustic levels of the noise and even a legal route if the NYPD continues to delay action on the sound abatement.

John Doyle, an officer of the Civic, told *The Current*: "This isn't about being anti-cop or moving them against their will. What the Civic and our partners want is to get the same deal for the Bronx that Queens was going to receive. When the Police Department decided to move the range to College Point, they knew the noise wouldn't be tolerated by Queens residents, so they planned a fully enclosed firing range. Bronxites, and City Islanders in particular, should be given the same consideration. After all, this promise was made over 20 years ago and still hasn't been kept."

The Civic has also pressed the NYPD to implement a warning signal when the bomb squad, located on Rodman's Neck, is planning to detonate explosives. The bomb squad was never scheduled to move to Queens, although the noise has long been a cause for concern to the community, since the detonations have been known to shake houses, frighten children and pets and cause minor destruction of household objects.

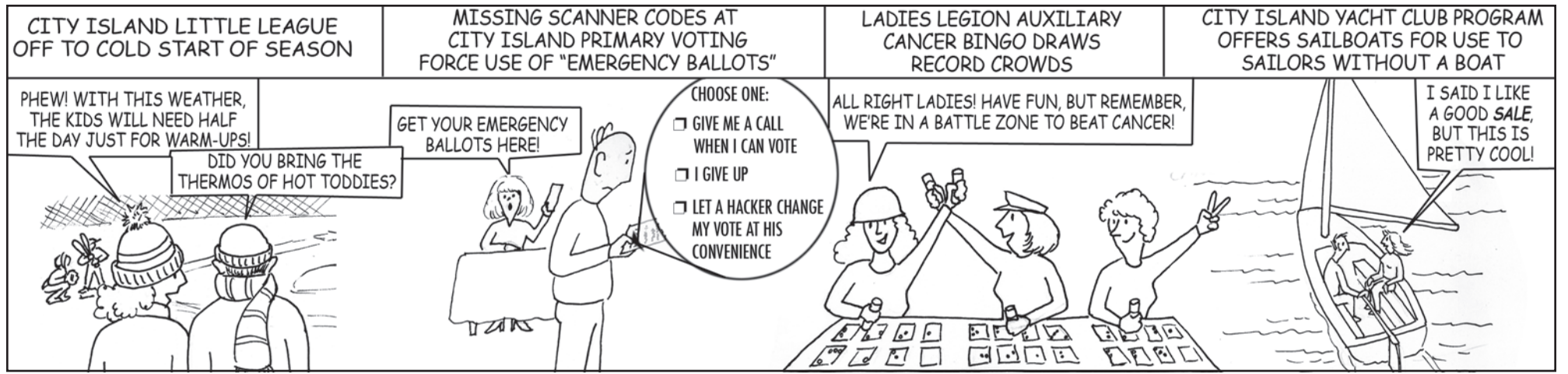
In his letter to the Civic on March 16, Commissioner Bratton agreed to employ the Notify NYC system "to provide real time notifications as soon as practicable." As the representatives of the Office of Emergency Management told the community on April 12, this notification system is already in the works (see "Managing Emergencies," on page 5).

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Prayers for Father Doug

(A copy of the following letter was received by The Current).

On April 13, 2016, the Reverend Henry Douglas Coleman, a priest well remembered in New Rochelle and on City Island, passed into God's greater glory.

I knew Doug only in his final years at Grace Episcopal Church but came to see that he was all but inseparably connected to that parish, where he was raised, and where he carried on for many years the ministry that had been his father's. His retirement from that parish was a poignant turning of the page and the remembrance of long service by father and son.

A parish served by generations of priests from the same family is not unique in our diocese (I think also of Saint Martin's Church in Harlem and the Church of the Transfiguration in Manhattan), but it is always both historically noteworthy and important to the common life and shared ministry of our diocese today.

Soon after Doug's retirement, Grace Church was named to the National Register of Historical Places. Originally constructed by carpenters from the nearby David Carll Shipyard, Grace is an exquisite example of carpenter Gothic architecture. The configuration of the beams in its nave resembles that of a ship's hull, symbolizing the ministry of Grace to the nautical community on City Island.

Grace also has a stained-glass window designed by the Bolton family of priests and artisans, "The Trial of Christ," which is one of the earliest figurative stained-glass windows in America.

For their stewardship of Grace's buildings and even more for their pastoral ministry to the people of City Island for decades, a ministry that is embodied in the vibrant faith community that is Grace today, I am thankful to both Doug and his father.

The Right Reverend Andrew Dietsche
Diocesan Bishop of New York

Funding for Rodman's Neck Renovation

(A copy of the following letter was received by The Current).

To the Honorable Joseph Crowley
Member of the U.S. House of Representatives

Re: Funding for Rodman's Neck Renovation
Congressman Crowley:

As you know, Rodman's Neck serves as the primary firearms training and demolition of explosives site for the New York City Police Department, FBI and other security agencies. Additionally, I am sure that you also know of the many noise complaints that have emanated primarily from City Island, but also from Pelham Bay, Throggs Neck, Country Club and Co-op City.

Our Community Board has been the

recipient of many noise complaints, and we have advocated for City funding to enclose the firing range and to mitigate the buildup of lead from the spent shell casings. In response to our correspondence, Police Commissioner Bratton acknowledged the need for work at the site but reported that funding would not be in the immediate fiscal year.

The problem of noise emanating from the facility, combined with fiscal realities that would preclude the construction of any enclosure in the immediate future, has led our Board to approach your good office for assistance. Our thought is that federal funding under the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP), through the Urban Areas Security Initiatives (UASI) or the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP), both of which provide funding for a wide range of activities, including training components, could be applied to Rodman's Neck.

Given that the Rodman's Neck facility is a training site, it is the Board's hope that you will be able to use your office to successfully inquire about funding, for the enclosure of the range and demolition site. We feel that the application of federal (HSGP) funds for the construction of a state-of-the-art facility for the enhanced training of officers may very well be the way of meeting of the dual goals of facility improvement and noise mitigation.

Martin Prince
President of Community Board 10

Eulogy for Pete McConnell

In September, sometime in the 1960s, Lou Toupin and I were teaching at P.S. 17, when a new teacher, Peter McConnell, walked up the front steps into our neighborhood. He and Matt Sicilian were added to our lives as educators.

We talked and worked a lot. We learned about his sisters, one of whom was a nun, because Pete would say every once in a while: "Boy, am I in trouble," and we would agree. He loved his parents and worked with his father in a deli in Bayside, Queens.

Then, thank goodness, Barbara entered his life and we learned that making fun of your friend for having kids later in life will definitely come back to bite you. His three children filled his life. His love for his daughter, Erin, was magic, although he was upset that her birthday was two days after St. Patty's day. When he talked about his son Peter, we realized this was Pete himself, reincarnated. And then number three was Kevin, who, we learned, participated in every adventure Pete wished he had done himself.

We learned that Pete was perhaps the single most influential man in the lives of almost two generations of City Islanders. He didn't ask to be. It came with the territory, and he embraced it. Everyone in the City Island community knew him. There were times when Pete victoriously blocked the crannies of school discipline. I remember when I was a principal again, with a voice that could be heard around the world, Pete came in and told me that there was no cross on the front of the building so maybe we should try again.

We all learned that during the summers in Pelham Bay, there were neighborhood bars that cashed your paycheck and sold cocktails to go, in Styrofoam cups. Matt Sicilian, Pete and a few others would sometimes leave together on a Thursday to share a weekly confession at a local bar. One day, Pete parked his car and entered the local institution as usual. When he left, he decided that his car had been stolen and the police were called. The car was found

on the next block, exactly where it had been parked.

But Peter knew history, enjoyed it and taught it in a way that every educator wants it done. Matt Sicilian says that that he learned more about Plessy vs. Ferguson and Brown vs. the Board of Education by listening to Pete teach, than he did in any history class he had ever taken. I remember one day when a former student came in to see Pete to thank him; he had become a lawyer practicing constitutional law. When students received tests and disagreed with grades, Pete would tell them to go read the constitution and develop a case that could possibly change the grade.

Pete's knowledge was enhanced by his personality. He told the story, and everyone listened, including me. One day I sat and listened to him talk about Abraham Lincoln and some event in the 1860s; he told the students that, as a matter of fact, Mrs. E. was present at that event and they should ask me about it. I think at least 50 percent of the students believed him.

We learned that Styrofoam cups never let your coffee go cold and that one could survive on Pepsi, coffee, cigarettes and Peanut M&M's. We learned that even though "McConnell can't see you, God can."

Pete had a gentle, human compassion for children that endeared them to him for life. He was funny, he was observant, he was provocative, energetic and caring. He had a generous spirit. And sometimes a goofy tone that was like no one else's.

Pete, while you lived, we all laughed a little louder, cried a little softer and lived a little stronger because we all stood together. You had a life well lived, and you were a man well loved.

Ena Ellwanger

Funding for Rodman's Neck Renovation

(A copy of the following letter was received by The Current).

To: Mr. Bill Stanton, President
City Island Civic Association

I am writing in response to your correspondence concerning implementation of an e-mail system to notify City Island residents of detonations conducted by the New York City Police Department's Bomb Squad.

First, let me express that we both share the same desire to enhance the quality of life of City Island residents and visitors alike. I am also aware that the City Island area has numerous local businesses and restaurants and an active boating community. The Police Department will continue to monitor development in the area of City Island and will reallocate resources as needed to maintain the quality of life that City Island residents have come to expect and deserve.

The New York City Police Department is committed to renovating the Rodman's Neck facility, which is in need of structural upgrades. A major reconstruction project has been proposed that will modernize the facility and transform it into a state-of-the-art training location.

As we work through pre-scope development, a critical aspect of this project will be sound mitigation. We will work with designers to consider all sound mitigation technologies, including installation of an overhead baffle system with enhanced sound proofing and ballistic sidewalls, which will reduce noise considerably. Please be assured of our sincere commitment in seeing this project through to completion.

With respect to your suggestion that we implement a system to notify City Island residents of explosive detonations conducted at the Rodman's Neck Range, we will employ the use of the Notify NYC system to provide real time notifications as soon as practicable.

Thank you for your concern in this matter and for your continued support of the New York City Police Department.

William J. Bratton, Commissioner
New York Police Department

Traffic Woes Continue

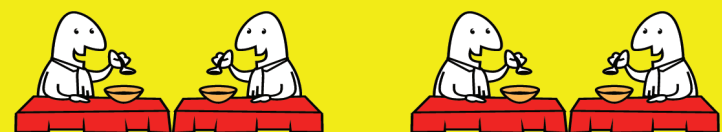
With such a beautiful week-end predicted, all City Islanders knew that traffic would be terrible. Were there ANY police on hand to help? No. On Saturday, after seeing many cars going into the emergency lane while I was trying to get over the bridge, I pulled over to speak to two officers in their car just over the bridge. I explained how bad the traffic was and their response was, "Yeah, well, it's often bad on these week-ends." I explained just how bad it was and asked if any cars could be sent to help. They said they'd call their desk.

Sunday things were terrible again. It actually looked like Mother's Day. By 2:00 when I left to do errands traffic was backed up beyond the traffic circle. When I returned at 4:00 there were so many cars trying to cut the line at the circle that all four lanes were blocked. Again, many cars were cutting in the emergency lane. While sitting there I called both 911 and 311, but neither said they could do much besides refer me to the 45th. Once I was over the bridge I saw that again there were officers in a car, near the flagpole. I asked if they could help. They said they were there to guard the Verizon equipment because of the strike, and couldn't drive down to help the situation. They were very nice, said they'd call the precinct, but they had to stay there.

I called the 45th when I got home, and reported the situation, but the person on the

Continued on page 6

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Managing Emergencies: Are We Ready?

By JANE PROTZMAN

At the request of the City Island Civic Association, a meeting was held on April 12 by the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) and the NYC Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to discuss the role that OEM can play should an emergency situation arise on City Island. Present at the meeting were representatives of the elected officials, the Civic Association, the Chamber of Commerce, the Fire Department and Community Board 10.

OEM is charged with managing emergency situations in all five boroughs. The agency will enable the necessary resource teams to handle a situation from its Watch Center, whether it involves Con Ed, Verizon, the New York Police Department (NYPD), the Fire Department of New York (FDNY), various New York State and Federal agencies or Family Assistance. OEM is the central clearing location that manages all required responders.

The initial purpose of the meeting was to keep City Islanders "on the radar" in light of concerns expressed about the temporary bridge, but it developed into a reassuring review of the various systems in place should

City Island need them in any future emergency situation.

The FDNY representative assured the gathering that the temporary bridge can accommodate the fire trucks as well as heavy loads on the bridge. If an incident should occur on the bridge that results in the closure of one or more lanes, the NYPD will be called in, as occurred when there was a traffic accident on March 7.

Frank McCarten, Deputy Commissioner of Operations for OEM, described the numerous resources available should a significant event occur on City Island. Major events such as scheduled highway closures can be planned for in advance, but many, such as hurricanes or an explosion may not. Resources are in place to handle any maritime emergency, thanks to OEM's access to the U.S. Coast Guard, private ferry operators and contract vessels that can be used as required. Mr. McCarten expressed confidence that since the NYPD and FDNY are "the best in the world," City Island would be in good hands.

Mr. McCarten emphasized several times that the term "evacuate" means just that. To

fail or refuse to evacuate City Island when the city administration demands it not only endangers residents, but it also makes it difficult or even impossible for first responders and agents to do their jobs. For those leaving the Island who do not have access to housing on the mainland, OEM provides Reception Centers, where one may go for advice and directions to an Evacuation Center, where one may stay. It is the responsibility of residents to leave when directed, but OEM does not specify where one must go, whether it is a place on high ground with friends or relatives or an OEM center.

The mainland Reception Center for those living on City Island has not yet been determined, but when it is chosen, OEM will provide new signage directing people to the appropriate location. One important issue that was raised at the meeting is that City Island has no local Reception Center for those who remain here, nor is there an effective alert system to contact all residents, especially those with medical needs. David Schmid, with the OEM External Affairs office, offered to work with a local team to review possible locations.

Joannene Kidder, Executive Director of Community Affairs at DOT, informed those in attendance that as of May 6 traffic agents will be on duty every day at both ends of the bridge to control traffic flow as necessary. They will be on duty from the afternoon into the late evening. The need for better signage to alert drivers to the angled turns on the bridge was discussed, and DOT will review more possible remedies. Traffic studies, however, show that drivers tend to ignore signs if there are too many of them.

A strong recommendation was made by OEM for a presence on City Island of a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), which educates individuals about disaster preparedness and trains them in basic disas-

ter response skills, such as fire safety, light search-and-rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations. Using the training they receive in the classroom and during exercises, CERT volunteers can assist others in the community during and after a disaster, when professional responders may not be immediately available to help. Ken Kearns, District Manager of Community Board 10, will work with OEM to expedite training for the program. A team of 15 to 20 Islanders would be ideal for the training program. Anyone who is interested in participating is asked to call the Community Board at 718-892-1161.

At the request of the Civic Association, OEM and the NYPD, through the Notify NYC alert system, will provide notification, within an hour, of any scheduled bomb detonations at Rodman's Neck. Notify NYC is a public messaging program that reports advisories concerning emergencies or events that may disrupt normal life, business or traffic activity in the city. Anyone may register to receive specific notifications via e-mail, fax, SMS (text message), BlackBerry PIN and Instant Messenger. In order to get the messages about the bomb detonations, register under "significant events" at www.nyc.gov/notifnyc or call 311 to register.

Residents of City Island realize that there is a definite risk involved in living on an island with one small bridge to the mainland. When Police Commissioner William Bratton came to City Island, he reminded those who attended the Civic Association meeting that traffic backups are to be expected in the warm months. The OEM representatives reminded those attending the meeting on April that the same is true for emergencies. The office will provide resources and assistance, but it is our responsibility to be ready, to evacuate if necessary and to help our more vulnerable neighbors.

Temple Celebrates 82 Years

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by MATT PANZA

Temple Beth-El of City Island honored several former interns and the Bronx Jewish Historical Initiative at their annual dinner dance on April 2, 2016, this year celebrating 82 years on City Island. Here (l. to r.) are representatives of the temple and their honorees: Paul Klein, President of Temple Beth-El; Marti Michael of the Bronx Jewish Historical Initiative; Rabbi David Evan Markus of Temple Beth-El; former interns Rabbinc Pastor Aliza Erber and Rabbi Eva Sax-Bolder; Rabbi Shohama Wiener of Temple Beth-El and former intern Rabbinc Pastor David Daniel Klipper.

Temple Beth-El of City Island held its annual dinner dance on April 2 at the Pelham/Split Rock Golf Course, where guests enjoyed a fine dinner, danced to the music of the Lickety Split Band and bid on fabulous items donated for its silent auction. The temple then presented their four honorees.

In describing his own term as an intern at Temple Beth-El from 2004 to 2006, honoree Rabbinc Pastor David Daniel Klipper noted that "no fewer than four new Jewish clergy members . . . have trained there as interns over the past 10 years. It is a veritable hothouse for the development of Jewish Renewal clergy—perhaps more than any other synagogue in the country over the same period of time."

Rabbinc Pastor Aliza Erber, who now serves with the BeYachad Center for Jewish Life Cycles and Learning in White Plains, came to Temple Beth-El in 2007 as a student in the ALEPH Ordination Program after a career in medicine. She was dual certi-

fied as a chaplain and has taught Hebrew at SUNY-Purchase.

Rabbi Eva Sax-Bolder served Temple Beth-El as a spiritual leader in 2014-15 and rabbinic intern from 2012 to 2014 and described her time with the temple as helping to expand "the boundaries of how a small shul can develop and thrive. That is the essence of Jewish Renewal."

The Bronx Jewish Historical Initiative was honored by Temple Beth-El for its role as an interactive community-based project that "explores, compiles, records, and shared the extraordinary history of the Jewish community of the Bronx." Its website (thebronxjewish.org) offers a virtual space for Jewish residents of the Bronx, past and present, to share their stories and photographs. The group has established a Bronx Jewish Hall of Fame, offers Jewish tours of the Bronx and special events relating to the Yiddish language, and is launching a historic preservation program to record memories of Jewish residents of the Bronx.



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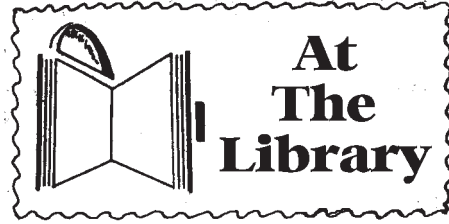


Painting by Mary Colby.



Mary Colby Studio & Gallery, 276 City Island Avenue, presents "The Blue Show," featuring artworks by Mary Colby and photography by Marc Weinstein. Join them for the opening reception, including light refreshments, on City Island's First Friday, May 6, from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

Focal Point Gallery, located at 321 City Island Avenue, is calling all artists to be part of the next exhibition, "Artists'Choice," which will open with a reception on Friday, May 6, from 7 to 10 p.m. The gallery is accepting work now; the deadline is May 4. Call 718-885-1403 for more information.



PROGRAMS AT THE CITY ISLAND LIBRARY
718-885-1703
Our hours are: Monday and Thursday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

MAY CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Stories and Songs for the Season: Join children's librarian and performer JulieAnn Stepanek as she reads some of her favorite picture books and sings some of her favorite songs. Recommended for infants to 5 years old with parent/caregiver. Every Thursday morning at 11 a.m.

Castles! A Medieval Building Series: Let's go back to a time of lords, knights, jousting and really large buildings called castles! Learn to create and build the different components of a castle with LEGO® bricks! Every Thursday at 3 p.m.

Circle Time: Children from birth to 3 years old and their caregivers can enjoy stories, songs, and finger plays while spending time with other toddlers. Limit of 15 children with their caregivers. First come / first serve basis. Every Tuesday from 11 to 11:45 a.m.

Read & Play: Children from birth to 3 years old and caregivers can take part in wonderful stories, discover amazing toys and meet new friends in this fun, informal program. Limit of 15 children with their caregivers. First come / first serve basis. Every Friday from 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Craft-A-Way: Drop in and participate in creating projects related to a

theme or holiday. Ages 1-4. May 20 at 12 noon.

MAY TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

After School Lounge: Come to the library after school for studying and a chance to unwind. Every Monday through Thursday from 3 to 5 p.m.

Friday After School Activities: 3 p.m. May 6: Wii Sports Challenge, May 13: Movie: Space Jam, May 20: iPad Gaming, May 27: Sports Magazine Collages

MAY ADULT PROGRAMS

Note: New Time: Spring Writing at the Library: Writing is Good Communication. Explore a different style of writing each week. Are you writing a short story or a comic farce, a letter of consolation or a how-to-do-it manual? Our twin goals for all writing are to grab a person's attention and be understood clearly. Communicate to others with a smile for yourself. Open to all. Every Thursday at 4 p.m. Led by Gail Hitt.

Afternoon Computer Lab: These sessions will be geared toward adult students who have already learned the basics and are ready to begin tackling more specific questions. Every Thursday from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m.

Island Writers-Creative Writing Group. This is a group for all who are interested in writing professionally or personally. Come check us out. It's free, special and open to all! Meets every Tuesday at 1 p.m.

Intro to Computers: Come to the library, ask questions about how to use computers and sharpen your skills through computer use. "How do I turn the computer on?" "How do I set up my own e-mail account and e-mail family and friends?" Every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Résumé Workshop: Designed to assist in creating a new or updated resumé. Topics include cover letters and

resources for job opportunities. A flash drive is required to save your work. Every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

One-on-One: Computer Training: Stop in or call to make an appointment for one hour of personalized instruction that addresses your questions and concerns.

Saturday Afternoon Movies/Lectures: 1 p.m. May 7: "Macbeth," May 14: "The Big Short," May 21: "Steve Jobs"

Please check flyers or call in advance in case of any unscheduled changes, additions or cancellations. For events in other branches, please check our website at www.nypl.org.

Box 6

Continued from page 4

other end said she'd pass it along to the desk, but didn't think there was enough personnel to help.

I am appalled that Verizon is using NYC police to guard their private property, but the private property and health of City Islanders is being jeopardized because the NYC police are "short on personnel on the week-end." With weather like this, having officers at the traffic circle should be more of a priority than guarding Verizon's equipment.

I hope this situation is remedied by the next nice week-end.

Elise Goldman

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City Island Yacht Club Offers a Popular Time-Share Sailing Program

By BETSY FRAWLEY HAGGERTY

Want to go sailing but don't own a boat? No problem. Clubs where members share boats abound at yacht clubs, sailing schools, community sailing programs and fractional sailing businesses in greater New York and elsewhere. This is the story of one of them—the club-boat program at City Island Yacht Club (CIYC) on Eastchester Bay in the northeast Bronx.

The yacht club, which celebrates its 109th birthday this year, started its club-boat program seven or so years ago when a member donated a 23-foot sailboat he could no longer use, and the club leadership decided to try an experiment—let members share the boat.

That boat is long gone, but the club-boat program that it spawned is thriving. Three Catalina 25s and a J/24 make up the fleet, shared last year by 22 members. I was one of them, and there was never a day when there wasn't a boat to sail. I sailed one club boat or another 18 times last summer, meaning that I sailed more than the average boat owner, and many members sailed twice a week or more in Eastchester Bay and Western Long Island Sound during the 20-week sailing season.

"I'm passionate about sailing, and I love this program," said Branka Dragasevic, one of the twice-a-week sailors. Two years ago Branka, who had skippered dinghies and had crewed on cruising and racing boats, was looking for a place where

she could hone her skills and get out on the water more often. She and a friend spent their spring Saturdays visiting sailing programs and yacht clubs to find the right fit for them. "City Island Yacht Club came in first," Branka said. "We could look at the boats in the boatyard, talk to members, and I was very impressed with the spring lecture series. I liked that members were committed to learning and everyone was very social."

Although she was seasoned crew, Branka had never skippered mid-size keelboats before, and she admits she had a lot to learn. "Skill acquisition is not easy as an adult, but everyone was supportive and available to help in any way. It took me a while to get into the groove." She qualified as a club-boat skipper last year and is able to take the boats out on her own with friends or other club-boat members aboard. "I feel competent now, but this is just the beginning. I am always learning," she said.

Sailors should have some sailing experience before they join, with at least a basic keelboat class under their belts. They need to know basic maneuvers and sailing terms so they can work comfortably as crew with other sailors. To qualify to become a skipper—last year everyone qualified by the end of the season—they have to demonstrate that they know the rules of the road, points of sail and basic sail trim, and that they can handle the boat safely in up to 15



Photos by BETSY FRAWLEY HAGGERTY

The City Island Yacht Club boat *Knot Mine* (formerly *Sarip*) sailing near Hart Island with members Heinz Bronnimann and Tom Dierking aboard. The yacht club seen from the waters of Eastchester Bay (photo below).



knots of wind. They must also show they can pick up a mooring under sail—a real test of sailing skill. While the boats all have outboard engines, CIYC wants to make sure members are fully capable of bringing the boat back safely under sail. Those who qualify first as crew but not as skippers, can learn from more experienced club members, take private lessons or go to a sailing school.

One of the best things about the club-boat program, members say, is the camaraderie they share with other club-boat members and with active, boat-owner members of CIYC. Many members, myself included, race and cruise with people they meet on the yacht club porch or working in the boatyard.

CIYC members are, for the most

part, do-it-yourselfers who spend spring weekends prepping their boats for sailing season, helping one another and making friends while they do so. Club-boat members get to participate in the boatyard fun. While the boats are owned by the yacht club, members are responsible for doing the maintenance work, prepping bottoms, waxing hulls and keeping the boats clean and in good repair throughout the season.

Happily, many members, like former boat owner Heinz Bronnimann who leads the maintenance program, are both highly skilled and generous with their time. "I don't mind working on the boats, and teaching others how to do so," Heinz said. "It's a co-op program, and you get to know people really well during the spring work parties. That's how many of us became good friends."

Membership in the club-boat program includes a CIYC social membership, which offers reciprocity at many other yacht clubs, and costs about \$1,000 annually, a bargain for unlimited sailing and the ability to sail with your own guests at no extra charge.

For more information or to apply for membership in the CIYC Club Boat Program, visit cityislandyc.com or email club boat liaison Branka Dragasevic at club-boat@cityislandyc.com or call 718-885-2487.

Two other City Island organizations also offer time-share sailing club opportunities: Harlem Yacht Club, hyc.org, 718-885-3078; and Steve Card's New York Sailing Center and Yacht Club, startsailing.com, 718-885-0335.

Betsy Frawley Haggerty, a freelance maritime journalist, is the former editor of *Offshore Magazine*, a member of *City Island Yacht Club*, a USCG-licensed captain and certified sailing instructor. A version of this article was published in *WindCheck Magazine*, March 2016.

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Photo by LORENZO BEVILAQUA

The City Island Theater Group collaborated with Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum and Supporting Characters on a delightful immersive theater experience at the museum on April 7 and 8, 2016. Seated (left to right): Carol Dooner, Graeme Buehrer, Sebastian Fisher, Britney Jensen; standing: Ed Friedman, Edgar Emanuel Cabrera, Rich Feldman, Matiana Bogiatzis, Amanda Livingston Martin, Bob Mulroy, Shari Winard, Jay Langkamp, Sarah Harrold, Karen Andronico, and Linda Blackstock.



Bartow-Pell Events

National Public Gardens Day. On Friday, May 6, from 3 to 5 p.m., celebrate green space in the Bronx with free guided tours of BPMM's historic landscape and gardens. The walled, terraced formal garden, celebrating its centennial, features two bronze peacock sculptures that Gaston Lachaise (1882–1935) designed in 1920 and 1928. Bring a picnic and make a day of it! (or stay for live music afterwards) Free.

First Friday! On Friday, May 6, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., come hear the Lickety Split trio—Skip Giacco, vocals; Frank Pisani, keyboard; and Lincoln Schleifer, bass—perform American standards from 6 to 8 p.m. Enjoy the music, explore the museum and stroll the garden; light refreshments available. The trolley makes an hourly loop starting at 5:25 p.m. from the Pelham Bay Park subway station to BPMM to City Island. Registration requested. Cost \$12 adults, \$10 seniors and students; members free.

Kentucky Derby Party. On Saturday, May 7, from 5 to 7:30 p.m., come watch the 142nd running of the Kentucky Derby and support the museum! Jazz, juleps and prizes for the most elegant and original hats add to the fun. Tickets available at www.bpmm.org.

Bronx Week at Bartow-Pell. On May 8, 11, 14, 15, from 12–4 p.m., celebrate history and preservation in the Bronx with free guided

tours of the mansion. (Please note the museum is closed on Saturday, May 7). View the spring exhibition, "Gilded Age Glamour: Fashions from the Bartow-Pell Collection," which has been extended through May 15. Free.

Mansions and Cottages Trolley Tour: Historic Homes and Gardens of the Bronx. On Friday, May 13, and Saturday, June 25, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., take a trolley tour of historic homes and gardens of the Bronx. The tour culminates at Bartow-Pell, after stopping at Wave Hill, Van Cortlandt House, Valentine-Varian House and the Edgar Allen Poe Cottage, and driving by various historical sites, as well as taking a lunch break at Arthur Avenue along the way. Departs from Grand Concourse between 161st Street and 158th Street. \$50 adults, \$25 children under 12. For more information and to purchase tickets, call the Bronx Tourism Council at 718-590-3918.

Time Will Tell: Clocks from the Bartow-Pell Collection and the History of Clocks. On Thursday, May 19, at 7:30 p.m. horologist John Metcalfe will provide a glimpse into the world of gears, drives, wheels and escapements. An owner and founder of Antiquarian Horologist, he has restored ticking and chiming to clocks in collections such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, British Museum, and National Watch and Clock Museum. Learn about the 19th-century clocks in the Bartow-Pell Collection and their place within the history of clock making, as well as technical aspects of antique clock restoration and repair. A reception will follow the presentation. Admission proceeds and donations received during the evening will go towards restoration and repair of clocks in the Bartow-Pell Collection. Cost \$10 adults; \$8 seniors, students, and members. Registration requested 718-885-1461 or info@bpmm.org.

Centennial Plant Sale. Saturday, May 21, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Let your garden be inspired by ours! Unusual annuals, perennials and herbs for sale, plus demos on edible gardening and potting plants. Rain date: Sunday, May 22.

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Our Office is also a key Organizer for all the City Island Reunions at Ambrosini Field and Most recently we Organized "City Island Rocks" a Summer Concert Series Promoted by AER and Sponsored with local Businesses every weekend this summer making our town just a little nicer place to live and relax

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18 West 48th Street, 21B, NYC - \$7,795/mo

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Organization News

News on this page concerning organizations, and events listed in, are submitted by representatives of those organizations. A limit of 150 words is requested for all news items submitted. In most cases news will be edited and every effort will be made to preserve the substance of longer items. News and calendar events must be received by no later than the 20th of each month except December and July. If the 20th falls on a holiday or Sunday, the deadline is the 19th. Mail submissions to P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464. YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER MUST BE INCLUDED.

Current Calendar

MAY

Tues., May 10, **Blood Drive**, sponsored by the Bronx Masons, Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street, 3:30 to 7:45 p.m.

Thurs., May 19, **CI Garden Club Annual Luncheon**, City Island Yacht Club, Pilot Street, 12 noon.

Thurs., May 19, **Community Board 10 meets**; call 718-892-1611 for location.

Sat., May 21, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: ziti or rotini with meatballs or meat sauce.

Mon., May 30, **Memorial Day Parade**, 2:30 p.m., sponsored by the American Legion. Starts at the south end of City Island Avenue.

Tues., May 31, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

JUNE

Sat. and Sun., June 4 and 5, **Spring Arts and Crafts Fair**, sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., City Island Avenue.



Trinity United Methodist Church

Our weekly worship service and Sunday school are at 10 a.m. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. Trinity often has a coffee hour after the service. Come and join us for worship and fellowship. Children's Sunday school takes place during the 10 a.m. service. All children are welcome to attend.

Please visit Trinity's new home on the web (www.trinityofcityisland.org), where you will find all things Trinity, including the texts of Reverend Yew's sermons.

"The 7 Deadly Sins" is the topic of a discussion group led by Jay Howard in Fellowship hall at 7 p.m.; the final session is May 22. All adults are welcome.

It's spring and that means cleaning up and uncluttering your home. Remember to donate all that clutter and gently used items to the Budget Shop. It is open on the first and third Tuesday of each month and occasional Saturdays. Trinity is thankful for City Island's continued support, in both the volunteering of time and the generosity of the donations.

Rick DeWitt

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island (TBE), "your shul by the sea," at 480 City Island Avenue is a stimulating non-denominational place for observance of Jewish traditions. Jewish Renewal is the style of our deeply spiritual, innovative, all-inclusive and open-minded worship. Rabbi Shohama Wiener and Rabbi David Evan Markus lead services with music by Your Band by the Sea. Events begin promptly, so please come 15 minutes before listed times. Services are followed by a celebratory Oneg, light refreshments. Reminder: for the health and comfort of all, please refrain from wearing perfume or cologne. Find out more information at our website, www.yourshulbythesea.org. We welcome you to follow us on Facebook.

Temple services Friday evenings from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

May 6: Join Rabbi David and Your

Band by the Sea for a special Shabbat to honor Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel Independence Day. Celebratory oneg to follow.

May 13: Join Rabbi Shohama and Rabbi David and Your Band by the Sea for a heartfelt musical welcome to Shabbat. As we reach the midpoint of Torah, we reach the heart of Torah, the Holiness Code and call to love another as ourselves. Enter into the heart of Shabbat and connect your heart to the heart of the world. Celebratory oneg to follow.

May 20: Community-led Shabbat

May 27: Join Rabbi David and Your Band by the Sea for an uplifting musical welcome to Shabbat. This week's Torah portion (Behar) focuses on Shabbat, a Shabbat for each week, a Shabbat for the land every seven years (shmitta), and a Shabbat for debts and all society after every seven sets of seven (yovel, or jubilee). Feel the flow of time's cycles as we enter into Shabbat together. Celebratory oneg to follow.

Classes

Monday evenings (May 2, 9, 16, 23): Yoga at TBE. Daniella Haney (Patreesha Sat Inder Kaur), certified instructor in spiritual disciplines of breath and body, continues our weekly Monday series in transformative breath, body and spirit for deep healing in body, mind and soul. Suitable for all persons, ages, body types and experience levels. Dress in loose-fitting clothes: participants can take session on the ground (mats and pillows provided) or sit in a chair. Tea and cookies served after sessions. Suggested freewill offering \$10/session. RSVP to Daniella at kycnyc@aol.com.

May 15 from 4 to 6 p.m.: Folk Dancing: "Hard Times Require Furious Dancing." Join folk dancers Susie Goldberg and Ed Brubaker for lessons in international folk dance, including Israeli, Greek and Balkan dances (their specialty). Suggested donation \$15. Refreshments RSVP barbarahgold@gmail.com or call/text 917.545.6448.

May 17: Mitzvah and Mysticism from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Join Rabbi David for this fifth session of our 2016 Adult Education Series entitled "Mitzvah and Mysticism," a deep dive into the traditional roots and mystical wings of the mitzvot (sacred acts) of Jewish spiritual life. With study, discussion and spiritual experience, we will explore deeply where core mitzvot of Jewish life come from and how mystical tradition, including the Zohar, make of those traditions. Free for members, \$10 for non-members. Sessions will conclude on June 21.

Looking Ahead

June 11 to 14: Shavuot Retreat at the Isabella Freedman Retreat Center- Falls Village, CT. Join Rabbi David, Rabbi Rachel Barenblat, Reb Eve Ilsen and renowned Renewal leaders for an extraordinary Shavuot weekend of learning, song, organic feasts, dance, meditation, yoga and more. Offered in partnership with ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal.

Seeking

Musicians: If you're an instrumental musician interested in supporting TBE's spiritual music, Rabbi David would love to speak with you. We are especially looking for high-quality string, wind, brass and percussion players. For more information or to express interest, please contact Rabbi David via yourshulbythesea@gmail.com.

Computer Geek: TBE is seeking a congenant or City Island resident experienced in website and database management for volunteer support. To offer assistance,



Photo by PAUL NANI

Members of Grace Episcopal Church's Sunday school sang a special anthem on Easter Sunday and are practicing for their next performance on Mother's Day in May. The Sunday school meets the first and third Sunday of the month and is led by Karen and Mark Nani.

please email us at yourshulbythesea@gmail.com. Thank you! Looking for someone to help us with e-mail blasts. Please volunteer your time to help us design email blasts for our events.

Oneg sponsorships: Anyone with a special occasion to honor for yourself or another (e.g., birthday, anniversary, new job, achievement, yahrzeit or memorial) is warmly invited to sponsor a Friday night oneg. To sponsor an oneg or for more information, please contact Violet Smith at 718-885-0978 or violetsmi@aol.com.

Outreach: Hebrew School Partnership. Enrollment continues for TBE's Hebrew School partner, Sinai Free Synagogue, in nearby Mount Vernon. To enroll a child or obtain more information, please contact Rabbi Shohama via youshulbythesea@gmail.com.

Ellen Ruth Topol



Garden Club of City Island

In March our committees met to plan the annual Beautification Fund drive for April and the Garden Club's Annual Luncheon in May. Monies to be collected for the Beautification Fund will go toward purchasing fresh, colorful annuals and plants for the planter boxes on City Island Avenue, along with other projects, including the professional year-round maintenance of City Island Avenue, tending tree pits, street cleanup, weeding and Christmas wreaths. Club members, along with the Garden Club Helping Hands, clean and maintain the planters throughout the growing season. Our Beautification Fund drive letters have been delivered to homes and businesses, and many have been very generous.

The theme for our annual luncheon is "Lilacs," and all are invited to attend. This is always an enjoyable afternoon, so be sure to get your reservation to Vivi McGuire at 718-885-1442 and join the festivities at noon on Thursday, May 19, at the City Island Yacht Club. The cost is \$55. Our luncheon committee will be busy putting together wonderful themed-gift baskets, prizes and gift certificates. A fine lunch will be provided by Bistro SK of City Island.

If you have an interest in civic beautification and promoting gardening, please join us the first Monday of every month (except August) at the City Island Yacht Club at 10 a.m. and meet like-minded people. Our annual dues are \$35. Our program chair is responsible for getting wonderful presenters during the year and organizing day trips to public and private gardens, an experience you won't want to miss. The meeting is followed by coffee and fresh baked goods provided by our Hospitality Committee.

Carol Hansen

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

Thursday, May 5, is the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord and a holy day of obligation. Come join us at one of our Masses which will be held at 7 a.m. and 12 noon.

On May 6, the first Friday of the month, we will hold our monthly holy hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 4 to 5 p.m. All are welcome.

On May 8, we honor all our mothers with a special blessing at all our Masses.

Because the second Sunday of the month is Mother's Day, we will not have our monthly coffee hour. The last one of the year will take place in June.

Students in our eighth-grade religious education program will receive the sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday, May 10, at 4 p.m. Bishop John Jenik will be the confirming bishop.

Saturday, May 21, will be an important day in the lives of several of our children and their families. On that day, the children will receive their first Holy Communion at the 11 a.m. Mass. Let us pray for our children as they begin a loving relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

The following day, May 22, these children will participate in a special procession on Sunday at the 11 a.m. Mass, where our parish will honor Our Blessed Mother during the month of May. We will crown the statue of Our Lady and honor her as the patroness of our parish. Following the Mass, our First Communicants and their families will partake of a Communion breakfast in the school gym.

Happy Memorial Day and have a wonderful summer!

Rose Dietz

REGULAR MEETINGS

Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings
on City Island

Narcotics Anonymous:

Fridays at 7:30 p.m., St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, City Island Avenue near the Bridge.

Thursdays at 8 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church hall, 113 Bay Street.

Alcoholics Anonymous:

Mondays at 8 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church hall.

Tuesdays at 8 p.m., St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church.

Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Grace Episcopal Church.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church: 718-885-1440

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

Overeaters Anonymous:

Saturdays at 11 a.m., Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080



For additional information about the Community Center, or if you are interested in conducting classes here please call 718-885-1145.

Summer camp programs for children are still accepting registrations. Please contact the instructors asap. Join the CSA now for fresh organic produce; meat, poultry and eggs are available as well.

Remember the Community Center is here for you and your families, so please support the programs and let us know if there is something you would like to see on the schedule.

Annual membership to the City Island Community Center is only \$30 for families and \$20 for individuals. Please think about it and consider joining. To join the Center, to request our brochure, and for up-to-date information, visit: www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org, call 718-885-1145 or "Like" us on Facebook and check Facebook for any changes in classes.

The Center is run by a volunteer board of directors who meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Community Center Main Room at 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend this open meeting. We always welcome volunteers and donations.

COMING UP

Sign up now for City Island Community Supported Agriculture: The CSA provides fresh organic fruits and vegetables throughout the summer and fall. For information contact laurenbriggsrn@gmail.com or call 917-238-0529.

Register now for Summer Art Workshop Camp for Children: July 11-15, 9:30 to 1:30 for children ages 7-12 will meet four hours a day to draw, sketch, paint on canvas and work with papier mâché with artist/teacher Lorainne Cantori. The children will explore the work of William Hopper, Mary Cassatt, and Amedeo Modigliani. There will be a special City Island landmark painting, an exhibit and reception and more. The students will bring their own lunch. The fee is \$210. To enroll or for information, call Lorainne at 914-552-5268 or e-mail her at ceasardante@optionline.net.

Register now for Summer Broadway Musical Theater Workshop Camp: Young people have fun singing, dancing and more with Broadway dancer and choreographer Kara Tremel. To enroll or for information contact karatremel@gmail.com or call 282-799-9869.

Register now for Summer Irish Dance Workshop Camp: In August all ages and levels learn the art of Irish Step Dance with Caitlin Nora Kelly. To enroll or for information, contact caitlin.nora.kelly@gmail.com or call 914-262-4517.

NEW PROGRAMS

Ballroom Dance: Wednesdays, 7 p.m. In April the featured dances will be the waltz and the cha cha with instructor Maurice Bonilla. It's lots of fun and soon you may be "Dancing with the Stars." For information, call 347-920-3127.

Bollywood Dance: Saturdays, Tweens, 12 and under, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Teens/Adults, 2:30 to 3:30. Join Lalitha Cosme to explore the dance, energy, movement and culture of Indian films. To register or for more information, e-mail lalithadance@gmail.com.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Irish Dance for Children: Mondays: Step dancing for all ages. Tiny tots 6 to 6:30 p.m., beginners 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., intermediate 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. All classes taught by Caitlin Nora Kelly. For information, e-mail caitlin.nora.kelly@gmail.com. or call 914-262-4517.

Jill's Playgroup: Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Preschool children are invited to have fun and socialize with other children. No charge, but donations are appreciated. For information, call Jill at 917-330-0922.

Hip Hop, Jazz and Ballet: Fridays, ages 4-5, 4:45 to 5:30 p.m. ages 6-8, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; ages 9 and above, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Have fun with professional dancer Kara Tremel. For information, e-mail kara-tremel@gmail.com or call 281-799-9869.

Introduction to Art Portfolio Prep: For high school prep or just for fun! To enroll, call Geri Smith at 718-885-1503.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Aerobics with Mary: Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 to 10 a.m. Stay strong with cross fit/aerobic strength training. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793. AFA Certified.

Belly Dance/Shimmy By the Sea with Kristin, aka Gypsy Curves, Sundays, new time: 4:30 p.m. \$20 per class. Call Kristin Amezcua 646-625-1575 for information.

Chair Yoga with Michael: Friday, 10 a.m. Stretch and flex with an easy combination of yoga, tai chi and pilates. For information, call Betty at 718-885-1095.

Chess Club: Meets each Wednesday at 7 p.m. Chess taught, played and discussed. All levels welcome. Come on in! Avoid T.V. Have fun. If you plan to attend, call Bill at 718-541-3995.

City Island Civic Association: Meets at 7:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of every month. Join your community in action.

City Island Culinary Club: First and third Mondays at 7 p.m. Have fun with other Islanders who like to cook, share your favorite recipes and pick up some new cooking skills. Monday, May 2, bring in salad recipes; May 16, tasting session for salads. For information, call Kenny Selesky at 917-533-7873.

City Island Drawing Society: Sunday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Find your inner da Vinci and enjoy the art of drawing with Joshua Glick. For information, call 917-721-1419.

Parenting Group: Last Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. We laugh, we cry and we learn from one another. Join us as we share our experience, strength and hope on this journey through parenthood. For information, call John Scardina at 718-885-9305.

Weight Watchers Meetings: Tuesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. with Debbie. Trim down and be healthy with the support of a great group. Join any time; it is never too late. For more information, call Elena at 718-885-2268.

Yoga with Jo Ann: Tuesday, 7 to 8:15 p.m. and Saturday, 8:15 to 9:15 a.m. \$10. Gentle level-one class. Please bring a mat, a strap and if possible, a yoga blanket. For information, e-mail joannngny@aol.com or call 917-853-4719.

Zumba with Julia / Kickbox with Maria: Saturday, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Want to lose those extra pounds and that belly fat? Well, here is your chance. Join this high energy 90-minute workout with toning. For information, call Julia at 917-601-5514 or Maria at 347-267-0591.

Zumba with Lettie: Thursday, 6 p.m. Lettie's very creative class is a real calorie burner and a blast. Classes are \$10. For information, call 917-292-4228.

Patty Grondahl

American Legion Post #156

The next regular meeting will be held on Sunday, May 1, at 12 p.m. Dues for 2016 (\$50) are now due.

We are in need of a webmaster. Anyone interested should contact the Post.

We have space for your next party. We can accommodate up to 80 people. Members receive a discount on all hall rentals. Call Joe Goonan at 718-885-1637.

We have recently installed brass port-holes that open into the doors in the bar. These were paid for by the new Queen of Hearts game.

Brian Sullivan is currently on sick call and is going for cancer treatment.

We are saddened to report that member Richard Heilman died.

May 13, 7 p.m., Post memorial service at Temple Beth-El.

May 30, Memorial Day Parade. All City Island organizations are invited to join in the march. Assemble at 1:30 p.m. at P.S. 175.

All retired flags should be dropped off at the Post in the mailbox by the flagpole.

Any retired veterans willing to help out around the Post contact John Muhlfield at 718-885-0639. Help is greatly appreciated.

We are always in need of new members. The Post pays the dues of members who are on active duty. Younger people are necessary for the continuation of the Post.

John Muhlfield

City Island Republicans

Thanks to all those who signed the federal petition to help us get Frank Spotorno onto the November ballot for Congress.

Donald Trump was the big winner on City Island, capturing 70 percent of the Republican vote. There was a huge turnout as well.

Also, if anyone had trouble voting in the Republican presidential primary on April 19, feel free to call Fred Ramftl at 347-680-7695.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

PSS City Island Center

The mission of PSS City Island Center is to provide neighborhood adults 60 and over with the tools to live life to their fullest, keeping them healthy, engaged and connected through innovative programs and classes. We are not your everyday senior center!

The center is located at 116 City Island Avenue in Grace Church Hall and is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. A delicious lunch is served every day from 12 to 1 p.m. Suggested donation: \$2. Programs are funded by PSS and the NYC Department for the Aging.

All programs and events are subject to change. Please call ahead to check if you have not attended before. To receive our newsletter and calendar of events send your e-mail to pattis@pssusa.org.

Highlights:

Circle of Care: Are you a caregiver or someone who is caring for a loved one such as a spouse, aging parent, friend or neighbor? Plan to attend the station on May 13 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon located in front of the PSS City Island Senior Center, 116 City Island Avenue, at Pilot Street. This station will offer valuable resources, answers and links to community resources and services in an effort to support caregivers in their important role. Also free massages! First come, first served.

May 4: Advisory Council Luncheon

May 6: Mother's Day Celebration! Karen Beal will be performing and singing Broadway songs. Special meal, dessert, prizes and gifts.

May 9: Monday, trip to Bronx Zoo.

May 10: Nutrition presentation at 12:15.

May 13: Circle of Care (see above).

May 17: Tuesday, Advisory Board Elections.

May 19: Thursday. New! Do you play an instrument? Sing? Perform magic? Are you a comic? Show off your talent at our monthly birthday party. Check in with Patty to be scheduled.

May 24: Tuesday, Elder abuse presentation at 12:15.

May 27: Friday, we close at 1 p.m.

May 30: Closed for Memorial Day holiday.

New: Blood Pressure Monitoring the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 10 to 11:30 a.m. This month it will be on May 10 and 24.

May Physical Exercise: The exercise program offers classes at various levels of fitness. Drop in and try one of our classes for yourself. Mondays: Tai Chi for Arthritis at 9:15 a.m.; Tuesdays: Cardio Fitness at 9:15 a.m. and Yoga Stretch at 1 p.m.; Wednesdays: Zumba at 9:15 and Arthritis Workshop at 10:15 a.m.; Thursdays: Learn Tai Chi at 9:15 a.m.; Fridays: Fit for Life at 9 a.m. and Yoga Stretch at 10:30. Arthritis Workshop, Yoga Stretch and Tai Chi classes are free. The suggested donation for all other exercise classes is \$3 each.

May Programs: Mondays: Learn Canasta at 10:15 a.m.; Individualized Computer Instruction at 1 p.m.; Tuesdays: Conversational Spanish at 10:15; Wednesdays: Radio Theater at 1 p.m.; and Haircuts by Brenda on May 11 and 25 for \$10; Thursdays: Acrylic Painting at 10 a.m.; Calligraphy at 1:30 p.m.; Bingo at 12:30 p.m. on May 12; Birthday Party May 19; Fridays: Radio Theater at 1 p.m.; Mother's Day Party May 6; Bake and Tag Sale May 13.

Information, Referrals and Assistance: Need help with filling out forms or applying for certain benefits? Don't know if you are eligible for benefits? We can help. Call Patty at 718-885-0727 or drop by the Center.

Caregivers Support. If you are caring for someone or if you know someone who is caring for another, we have some supportive services that might be helpful, including respite, escort assistance and help with shopping. Please call Patty at 718-885-0727.

Transportation Services. Off-Island shopping trips leave at 9:30 and include Shop Rite, Stop & Shop, Target, Farmers' Market, Trader Joe's, Empire City and more. All shopping trips require you to sign up ahead of time as we have limited seats. Sign up is available starting the Thursday before, for the following week's trips. See our monthly calendar for specific dates. The suggested contribution for a round trip is \$1 on City Island and \$2.50 off-Island shopping trips. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services. Call Tony at 347-834-6466 for pickup or trips.

Patty Attis

Sons of the American Legion Squadron #156

We would like to remind all members that 2016 dues are now due. They are \$30 and can be mailed or dropped off to the Post and placed in the SAL Box. Any member unpaid for more than two years will be dropped from the rolls.

New members are always welcome. If you are a male descendant, step-descendant or adopted descendant to a veteran set forth in the dates set by Congress, we would love to have you as a member. Stop by the Post to pick up an application.

The golf outing will be held on Friday, May 27, at the Pelham/Split Rock golf course. Lunch is at 12 and a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Afterwards there will be a barbecue back at the Post. Cost: \$125 per person, including the barbecue, or \$50 per person just for the barbecue.

It's party time! When booking your next party, consider the Legion Post. Members receive a discount rate on all hall rentals.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Episcopal Church, located at 116 City Island Avenue on the corner of Pilot Street, a place of worship and fellowship, warmly welcomes you to the following.

Worship Schedule: Holy Communion Rite II, Sundays at 10 a.m. After the service, we offer coffee hour, a time for refreshments and fellowship.

On Sunday, May 1, at 10 a.m. Grace will welcome the Rt. Rev. Stacy Sauls, who will preside over the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

On Saturday, May 7, we will have our Spring Café and Tag Sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We look forward to welcoming everyone to a day of bargains, baked goods and a hearty lunch served in our Café.

Sunday School lessons are going strong on the first and third Sundays of the month, May 1 and 14. No extra time is needed; students will begin the service with the entire congregation at 10 a.m. and then leave with their teacher for lessons and activities, including arts and crafts, for 30 to 40 minutes during the service. They will rejoin the congregation after the exchange of

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Organization News

Continued from page 11

peace. All interested parents and children are welcome.

Our new music ministry, the Grace Tones, will meet on the first Sunday of the month. Any changes in the rehearsal date/time will be announced by e-mail. Our members include the church choir and singers from on and off the Island; we rehearse hymns and sing-along songs. We perform at area nursing homes and rehabilitation centers, and we will revisit the Workmen's Circle on May 14. If you would like to sing for this "feel good" cause, please contact Sandy Dunn at accentfix@gmail.com.

Hearts and Hands Knitting and Crocheting Ministry will meet on May 16 at 6:30 p.m. This is a group of parishioners who create comfort items (hats and blankets) for use by patients at Calvary Hospital. The group meets the third Monday of every month in Grace Church Hall and invites other crafters interested in this project. For more information, please call Lori Swink at 914-523-7413.

Grace Episcopal Church, a place of worship and fellowship, warmly welcomes you to these and other events. Please visit our website at www.gracecityisland.org.

Sandy Dunn



City Island Theater Group News

We are very pleased to present Billy Van Zandt and Jane Milmore's classic farce "Love, Sex and the IRS" during two weekends in May. This is the story of Jon and Leslie, two out-of-work musicians who room together in New York City. To save money, Jon has been filing tax returns listing them as a married couple. The IRS informs the "couple" that they are going to be audited, which forces Leslie to masquerade as a

housewife. Jon's mother drops in unexpectedly, as does the building superintendent, while the tax man is at the apartment. Joe Burck directs the cast, which includes Phil Dante, Jean Eifert, Penelope Golden, David Morabito, Angel Muniz, Michael Sanacore, Ashley Wool and Denis Zepeda. Please see *BRIEFLY* for performance dates and ticket information.

The theater group collaborated in April with the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum and the playwright group Supporting Characters to produce six short site-specific plays in the historic rooms at the museum. The performances, entitled "Act/React," were presented on April 7 and 8 and brought the mansion's period rooms to life, as the plays were based on a letter written by the Bartow family's tutor in 1838 describing the family. Nick Sala directed four of the plays; the others were directed by Katrina Snyder and Bill Morton. Actors included Karen Andronico, Linda Blackstock, Matiana Bogiatzis, Graeme Buehrer, Edgar Emanuel Cabrera, Carol Dooner, Rich Feldman, Sebastian Fisher, Ed Friedman, Sarah Harrold, Britney Jensen, Jay Langkamp, Amanda Livingston Martin, Shari Winard and Bob Mulroy. Carol McCabe, assisted by Amanda Johnson, provided the costumes, several from the museum's collection.

Mary McIntyre

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

The thrift shop is open every Thursday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. During May, shop for capris, shorts, swimwear and sandals. Watch out for our weekly special sales. Enjoy coffee and tidbits with fellow shoppers.

Arlene Byrne

AARP Chapter 318

We meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month. On May 4, we will enjoy a Mother's Day luncheon at Trinity Methodist

Church on Bay Street at 12:30. Be sure to sign up for this festive afternoon. The cost is \$20 per person. On May 18, we will participate in a baby picture contest. Come and enjoy the afternoon with fellow members.

Rosetta Woods



Public School 175

Spring has arrived and our students are in full bloom!

The P.S. 175 tradition of going to Camp Greenkill will continue this year in May. Our sixth-graders will be spending three days learning about the environment and themselves. Ms. Shea, Ms. Ramos, Mr. Hammond and Ms. Dunmire will accompany the students for what will be an enriching experience for all!

Our educational trips this month included our kindergarten and first-grade classes attending a performance of "The Butterfly Life Cycle" at Lehman Center for the Performing Arts and going to see the movie "Zootopia." Our fourth grade visited the Tenement Museum to tie in with their social studies unit. In addition, many of our seventh- and eighth-graders went to Pelham Bay Park and Orchard Beach for their Reward Trip as part of our program that recognizes exemplary behavior.

P.S. 175's school-wide Community Service Program is getting ready to go! Some projects being considered are making bookmarks to be given out at the City Island Library; a bake sale to raise funds for breast cancer research; Run for the Wild at the Bronx Zoo to raise awareness for endangered species around the world and funds to help with this cause; a walk-a-thon to raise funds for the ASPCA; a children's book drive for Jacobi Hospital Pediatric Unit; City Harvest food collection; a walk-a-thon to

raise funds for disabled American veterans; conducting a sports tournament to fundraise and gather supplies for Habitat for Humanity; baking for POTS; work with the Bronx River Alliance to clean up the river and surrounding area. In addition, eighth graders did many individual and group projects including assisting with the community center Halloween Haunted House, helping the PTA at the card party and cleaning the Community Center. We thank Brenda Prohaska for coordinating many of these activities!!

We are grateful for the many donations to our school library Go Fund Me site! We have raised a little over \$2,000, which has enabled us to add an e-book collection to our hard copies of the books. Students will be able to access these from any electronic device, which brings our library into the 21st century! If you have not already done so, please consider visiting the site and making a donation.

Please keep in mind these important dates: Families with children turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2016, who have not already used the online tool to pre-register their children for kindergarten should call the school and speak with our secretaries, Sally Veltri or Gabby Pirraglia, as soon as possible. The Department of Education website also has registration information.

The seventh-graders will be going to Boston in May.

Eighth-grade graduation will take place on Friday, June 24, at 9 a.m. The Eighth-grade dance will take place the same evening from 7 to 10 p.m. The Awards Night Dinner will take place on Wednesday, June 15, at 6 p.m. The kindergarten moving-up ceremony will take place on Thursday, June 23, at 9 a.m., followed by a family celebration in the gym with a DJ and Sunny the Clown.

Citizens of the Month for April are Gabriella Alvarez-Middleton and Naomi Boyle (kindergarten); Robert Delaney and Jovanni Maiorca (first grade); Mila Paljusaj (second grade); Isaiah Elsayed and Paul Lachman (third grade); Michael Sanfratello (fourth grade); Nicholas Baratta and Colin Kenny (fifth grade); Kayla Fusco and Joseph Peloso (sixth grade); Angelina Sciarra and Ivonne Clara (seventh grade); Meghan McConaghy and Eleni Mantzaris (eighth grade).

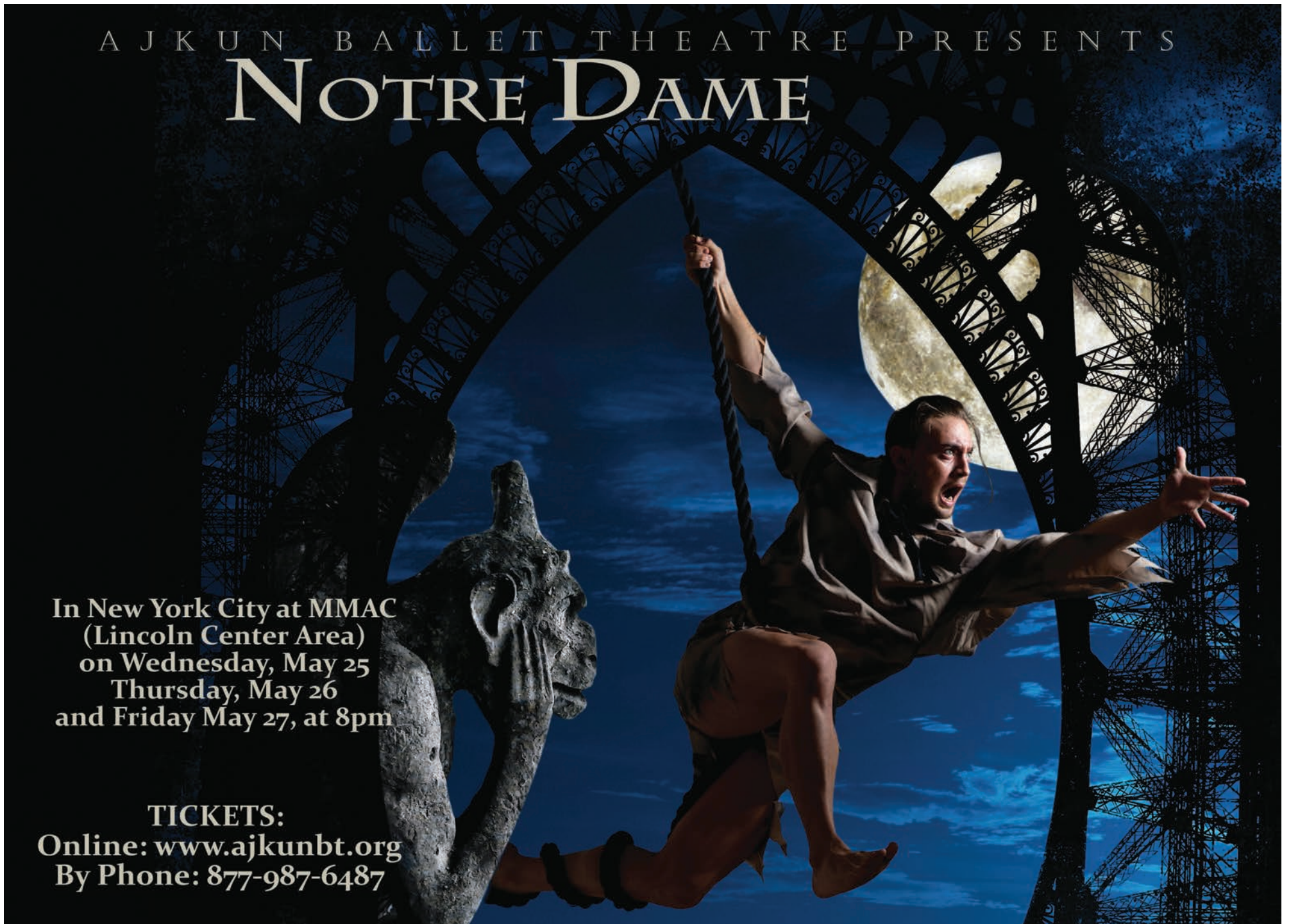
A J K U N B A L L E T T H E A T R E P R E S E N T S

NOTRE DAME

In New York City at MMAC
(Lincoln Center Area)
on Wednesday, May 25
Thursday, May 26
and Friday May 27, at 8pm

TICKETS:

Online: www.ajkunbt.org
By Phone: 877-987-6487





Photos by MARY MCINTYRE

Rehearsals are under way for the comedy "Love, Sex and the IRS," which will be presented by the City Island Theater Group in May. Working on their lines and blocking are (top photo, l. to r.) Jean Elfert and Paul Dante, and (bottom photo) Ashley Wool, Denis Zepeda and Phil Dante.

secretary, Donna (Jannel Maloney). Aaron Sorkin wrote the first four seasons, which were the best. The series is inspired by political events, with the demands that the office makes on each of the characters. Later characters were played by Lily Tomlin, Mary-Louise Parker, Marlee Matlin and Alan Alda. My favorite guest star was Emily Procter as Republican lawyer Ainsley Hayes, who is hired by the president, much to the consternation of his staff. The final season is devoted to electioneering which is relevant to today's happenings.

Borgen (2010–2013/30 episodes over three seasons) hailed as the Danish **West Wing**, is a one-hour dramatic political television series that tells the story of charismatic politician Birgitte Nyborg (Sidse Babett Knudsen), who unexpectedly becomes the first female prime minister of Denmark. "Borgen" (the Castle) is the nickname of Christiansborg Palace in Copenhagen, which houses all three of Denmark's branches of government: the Parliament, the prime minister's office and the Supreme Court. It also stars Pilou Asbaek as troubled "spin doctor" Kasper Juul, Birgitte Hjort Sorensen as ambitious news anchor Katrine Fonsmark, and Soren Malling as Torben Friis, editor-in-chief of TV1 News. The series offers a fascinating education in the workings of a government whose leader is not directly elected by the people but is a result of negotiations among the different political parties.

M15 (aka **Spooks**) (2002–2011/86 episodes over 10 seasons) is a British espionage thriller series that is prescient in its consideration of political plots that portended future happenings that eventually occur in real life. What makes it so riveting is that all of the main characters are in peril, and unlike American TV, any of them can be killed at any time. It considers the domestic intelligence operation in the United Kingdom, with Harry Pierce (Peter Firth) at the helm. His agents include Hugh Simon (Malcolm Wynn-Jones), Ruth Evershed (Nicola Walker), Adam Carter (Rupert Perry-Jones), Ros Myers (Hermoine Norris), Danny Hunter (David Oyelowo), Tom Quinn (Matthew Macfadyen), Lucas North (Richard Armitage) and Zafar Younis (Raza Jaffrey). It is the best of this genre.

Sex and the City (1998–2004/94 episodes over six seasons) is the story of writer Carrie Bradshaw (Sarah Jessica Parker) and her three best friends: sex-crazed publicist Samantha Jones (Kim Cattrall), lawyer Miranda Hobbes (Cynthia Nixon) and art gallery assistant Charlotte York (Kristin Davis). With New York City as the background, the series follows these women in their search for love (and sex). Chris Noth is prominent as businessman Mr. Big, the love of Carrie's life, although she also has flings with carpenter Aiden Shaw (John Corbett) and artist Aleksandr Petrovsky (Mikhail Baryshnikov). Miranda fights her love for bartender Steve Brady (David Eigenberg), while Charlotte fights her love for Jewish lawyer Harry Goldenblatt (Evan Handler). Samantha is completely promiscuous until she meets budding actor Smith Jerrod (Jason Lewis). Willie Garson is on hand as Carrie's gay friend Stanford Blatch. This half-hour program has humor, wisdom, perception and sustained friendships.

Downton Abbey (2010–2016/52 episodes over six seasons) is the most popular British program ever aired on American TV. It is the chronicle of the lives of a British aristocratic family and their servants in the early 20th century. The head of this family is Robert Crawley, Earl of Grantham (Hugh Bonneville), whose wife Cora (Elizabeth McGovern) is an American. They have three daughters, Mary (Michelle Dockery), Edith (Laura Carmichael) and Sybil (Jessica Brown Findlay). The scene stealer of the aristocrats is the earl's mother, Violet Crawley, Dowager Countess of Grantham (Maggie Smith). The primary love interest for Lady Mary is

Matthew Crawley (Dan Stevens), a distant cousin and heir to the estate, who arrived on the scene with his mother, Isobel Crawley (Penelope Wilton). Other suitors have included Lord Gillingham (Tom Cullen), Charles Blake (Julian Ovenden) and Henry Talbot (Matthew Goode). Chauffeur Tom Branson (Allen Leech) falls in love with Lady Sybil, marries her and becomes the agent for the estate.

The house is run by butler Charles Carson (Jim Carter), with the help of the housekeeper, Mrs. Hughes (Phyllis Logan). Other important staff include Mr. Bates (Brendan Coyle), the earl's valet, and his love interest, Anna (Joanne Froggatt), Lady Mary's personal maid. Other prominent staff are Mrs. Patmore (Lesley Nicol), the cook; Daisy (Sophie McShera), the scullery maid; Mr. Barrow (Rob James-Collier), a valet and footman; and Miss O'Brien (Siobhan Finneran), personal maid to the Countess of Grantham.

Weeds (2005–2012/102 episodes over eight seasons) is a black comedy drama whose title refers to such things as marijuana and widow's weeds, and also alludes to "hardy plants struggling to survive." The central character is Nancy Botwin (Mary-Louise Parker), the mother of two boys, Silas (Hunter Parish) and Shane (Alexander Gould), whose husband, Judah (Jeffrey Dean Morgan), dies suddenly of a heart attack. To support her family, she begins selling marijuana. The series follows the events in Nancy's life as she becomes a criminal, develops a client base, starts a front to hide her selling, creates her own strain of weed, marries again and constantly relocates her family to stay out of jail. Featured in the ensemble cast are her indolent, wisecracking brother-in-law, Andy Botwin (Justin Kirk); peculiar acquaintance Doug Wilson (Kevin Nealon); and her narcissistic neighbor Celia Hodes (Elizabeth Perkins), who is a manic PTA mother.

The first time I ever binged on a TV show, meaning that I watched an entire season over a weekend, was when a staff member of mine gave me season 1 of **Lost** (2004–2010/121 episodes over six seasons). The basic premise of this drama, which contains elements of science fiction and the paranormal, is that the survivors of the crash of a commercial passenger jet flying between Sydney and Los Angeles are forced to work together in order to survive on a mysterious tropical island somewhere in the South Pacific. What makes it intriguing is that each week focuses on a back story of one of the survivors, seeing what their life was like before the crash, and how they each reinvent themselves on the island. To sustain interest in the series, the airplane was broken into three pieces so there are colonies of people to follow. Also, as the series progresses, the timelines shift even more, including flash forwards in addition to the back stories.

The primary cast includes Jack Shepherd (Matthew Fox), a surgeon who became the reluctant leader of the group; Kate Austen (Evangeline Lilly), an escaped fugitive; Hugo "Hurley" Reyes, a very unlucky lottery winner; James "Sawyer" Ford, a con man; Michael Dawson (Harold Perrineau), a construction worker and aspiring artist who was on the island with his young son, Walt (Malcolm David Kelley); John Locke (Terry O'Quinn), a mysterious leader whose back story demonstrates the magical properties of the island; Sayid Jarrah (Naveen Andrews), a former Iraqi Republican Guard; Claire Littleton (Emilie de Ravin), a young Australian mother-to-be; Sun-Hwa Kwon (Yunjin Kim), the daughter of a powerful Korean businessman and mobster with Jin-Soo Kwon (Daniel Dae Kim), her husband and father's enforcer; and Charlie Pace (Dominic Monaghan), an English ex-rock star drug addict.

If you have any favorite series, let me know for next year. Happy spring, and until next time, happy viewing.



Bingeworthy Television

With the advent of streaming movies and television series via Netflix, Amazon Video and Hulu, many people are staying home to watch TV series they have heard about but never had the time to see. So this month, I'm beginning my first annual "binge-worthy television" column. My main parameters are that they are excellent and have completed their run.

We begin with the most outrageous, controversial and extremely well-written **Breaking Bad** (2008–2013/62 episodes over five seasons). The series stars Bryan Cranston as Walter White, a chemistry teacher who discovers he has lung cancer. He is less horrified by his prognosis than by the fact that he has not had an opportu-

nity to save enough money for his family's future, including his pregnant wife, Skyler (Anna Gunn), and their teenaged son, Walt Jr. (R. J. Mitte), who has cerebral palsy. To solve his problem, he partners with a former student, Jesse Pinkman (Aaron Paul), to make money producing and selling crystal meth. The excellent supporting cast includes Betsy Brandt and Dean Norris as Sky's sister Marie and her husband, Hank Schrader, a DEA agent. Bob Odenkirk is on hand as sleazy lawyer Saul Goodman; Giancarlo Esposito is Gus Fring, a major drug dealer; and Jonathan Banks is Mike Ehrmantraut, the fixer. I was hooked from the second episode and thrilled that it had a perfect ending.

The West Wing (1999–2007/154 episodes over seven seasons) takes place inside the White House, following liberal president Jeb Bartlett (Martin Sheen) and his staff including chief of staff, Leo McGarry (John Spencer), his deputy Josh Lyman (Bradley Whitford), communications director Toby Ziegler (Richard Schiff), deputy Sam Seaborn (Rob Lowe), press secretary C.J. Cregg (Alison Janney). Also in key positions are the personal aide to the President Charlie Young (Dule Hill), the president's secretary Mrs. Landingham (Kathryn Joosten) and the deputy chief's

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Telling the Truth: Parenting as “the risk of an act of love”

By JOHN SCARDINA

Loving our children unconditionally may seem to be to be an obvious statement of fact, until we realize that not everyone has this experience. Many times in my work with families I have seen parents withhold love for their own selfish reasons, a bleak expression of the parents’ neediness rather than a reflection of any unworthiness on the part of the children.

Unconditional love is certainly a gift afforded to many, but this is not the same as unconditional acceptance of all behaviors, beliefs and blind spots in our children as well as in ourselves.

A favorite quote of mine comes from James Baldwin, an author and expatriate who found an adopted home in Paris because life in the United States was not healthy for African-Americans and for those whose sexual identity fell outside the heterosexist norms of middle-class America. Baldwin wrote the following as a challenge to those around him: “If I love you, I have to make you conscious of the things you don’t see.” Love now becomes an act of education as well as acceptance, a sharing of wisdom that may be uncomfortable at times yet essential to growing together with

mutual respect and support.

Parents become the gateway to the world, a world that has both beauty and pain, justice and injustice. Children can maintain optimism and good will even as they lose their innocence and naiveté, with the gentle and loving guidance of parents who speak the truth and expose the child to “reality” in appropriate doses. Natural consequences, opportunities for restorative justice and plain old loss and failure are part of growing up, and parents who allow children to experience all of these are doing a great service.

Paolo Friere, a Brazilian activist and literacy campaigner, spoke of “the risk of an act of love” as a gift we can give to one another. Telling the truth—in appropriate and optimistic ways—can be the gift of “act of love” for our children.

City Islander John Scardina is a child development specialist, school psychologist, and parent educator. Check out his website at www.ThinkLaughLearn.com and join his parent support groups at the CI Community Center (usually the last Tuesday of the month).

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HH = hours; MM = minutes Tide chart by Tom Smith

MAY 2016									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Sun	0021	0.95	0624	7.47	1256	0.58	1905	7.60	Sun 01
02 Mon	0133	0.68	0731	7.51	1406	0.34	2010	7.92	Mon 02
03 Tue	0255	0.22	0840	7.66	1517	0.00	2113	8.30	Tue 03
04 Wed	0407	-0.35	0946	7.87	1619	-0.36	2210	8.65	Wed 04
05 Thu	0507	-0.87	1047	8.05	1715	-0.63	2304	8.90	Thu 05
06 Fri	0603	-1.24	1143	8.15	1809	-0.77	2357	8.99	Fri 06
07 Sat	0656	-1.41	1237	8.13	1901	-0.74			Sat 07
08 Sun	0048	8.92	0750	-1.35	1333	8.01	1955	-0.54	Sun 08
09 Mon	0142	8.68	0845	-1.10	1431	7.80	2052	-0.21	Mon 09
10 Tue	0240	8.31	0942	-0.72	1534	7.57	2154	0.17	Tue 10
11 Wed	0347	7.90	1042	-0.29	1640	7.38	2301	0.52	Wed 11
12 Thu	0501	7.54	1143	0.10	1746	7.31			Thu 12
13 Fri	0007	0.75	0611	7.32	1243	0.39	1848	7.34	Fri 13
14 Sat	0110	0.83	0715	7.24	1340	0.57	1946	7.47	Sat 14
15 Sun	0209	0.77	0813	7.26	1434	0.64	2039	7.64	Sun 15
16 Mon	0303	0.62	0906	7.32	1524	0.66	2129	7.79	Mon 16
17 Tue	0353	0.45	0955	7.38	1610	0.66	2214	7.90	Tue 17
18 Wed	0439	0.30	1040	7.41	1651	0.67	2256	7.95	Wed 18
19 Thu	0521	0.19	1123	7.40	1728	0.71	2334	7.93	Thu 19
20 Fri	0559	0.15	1201	7.35	1757	0.76			Fri 20
21 Sat	0002	7.87	0632	0.15	1233	7.26	1810	0.79	Sat 21
22 Sun	0012	7.84	0655	0.18	1249	7.21	1826	0.75	Sun 22
23 Mon	0027	7.93	0709	0.17	1302	7.15	1859	0.69	Mon 23
24 Tue	0059	8.03	0735	0.14	1333	7.36	1938	0.68	Tue 24
25 Wed	0137	8.10	0812	0.14	1412	7.46	2021	0.70	Wed 25
26 Thu	0221	8.09	0854	0.18	1456	7.53	2109	0.74	Thu 26
27 Fri	0309	8.00	0941	0.25	1545	7.59	2201	0.79	Fri 27
28 Sat	0401	7.83	1032	0.34	1639	7.64	2258	0.81	Sat 28
29 Sun	0458	7.62	1128	0.40	1737	7.71			Sun 29
30 Mon	0002	0.74	0600	7.45	1229	0.39	1840	7.85	Mon 30
31 Tue	0119	0.53	0709	7.36	1338	0.30	1946	8.06	Tue 31
JUNE 2016									
01 Wed	0248	0.14	0822	7.40	1453	0.10	2052	8.32	Wed 01
02 Thu	0359	-0.36	0935	7.54	1602	-0.15	2155	8.57	Thu 02
03 Fri	0459	-0.81	1039	7.70	1703	-0.36	2253	8.75	Fri 03
04 Sat	0554	-1.12	1137	7.83	1759	-0.48	2348	8.81	Sat 04



This Spring and Summer

This spring and summer promises to be especially frustrating for City Islanders caught up in traffic jams getting on and even off the Island. The best traffic cops on the planet won't be able to prevent what the new bridge hath wrought. We can expect lots of late-night noisy motorcyclists, too, and the sirens of emergency vehicles. These are just the facts of life for City Islanders when both the weather and restaurant business begin to heat up. Fighting it is folly. As an alternative, we would suggest keeping it all in perspective by taking advantage of some of the finer things City Island has to offer.

For example, sailboat racing in Eastchester Bay begins Wednesday, May 16. Then on June 11 and 12 there is a series of races to determine this year's winner of the City Island Cup. How many readers knew there was such an award? Even if you don't race or have never been aboard a sailboat, there can be no denying the spectacular views of a regatta's downwind leg, when colorful spinnakers are hoisted and spread wide to capture the wind. The views from aboard ship aren't so bad either, what with the sunsets and New York City skyline. Some of the clubs on City Island welcome newcomers to the races on Wednesday nights. Their skippers are often looking for the extra weight—what sailors call rail meat—particularly in a blow (i.e., when it's windy). For more information, check out the websites of the Harlem and City Island Yacht Clubs. The Eastchester Bay Yacht Racing Association (EBYRA) also has its own website.

In addition to boating, there are plenty of fish worth catching. City Islanders who have tasted fresh striped bass know


exactly what we're talking about. It is the kind of fish that even the fussiest child could take to. Other fish that may not be as tasty but are as much fun if not more so to catch include bluefish and their offspring, the feisty snapper. The folks at the bait and tackle shops can help you get started.

If the water doesn't do it for you or if you're looking to add a new wrinkle to your outdoor repertoire this spring and summer, try looking for new birds in Pelham Bay Park. We could not have been more excited when we came across a new great horned owl nest last month. It was the owlet we noticed first, since it had just fledged. Both parents kept a watchful eye on their vulnerable offspring from a distance. Then when we were convinced that it couldn't get any better, Jack sent the photo below.



Photo by JACK ROTHMAN

Two owlets! And for about a week we thought there was only one. You never know what you might find when you give yourself time to look and listen right outside in your own backyard.




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IN THE GARDEN

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY

Rosa Crown Princess Margarita

*April is the cruelest month, breeding
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing
and desire, stirring
Dull roots with spring rain.*

So says T. S. Eliot in his poem "The Wasteland."

But Vita Sackville West, of the great Sissinghurst Castle and garden, corrects him with:

*The land and not the waste land we
celebrate,*

*The rich and hopeful land, the solvent
land,*

*Not some poor desert strewn with
nibbled bones,*

The land of death, sterility, and stones.

Yes, spring happens only once a year, and it is our duty to ourselves to respond, not despond. The message of spring, the bubbling up of everything green, makes us rejoice for a new and resurrected self, a new way of being or of tackling a long drawn-out problem.

Out of the frozen soil come sheets of bluebells, daffodils fresh with buds, snowdrop pendants that a late frost will not damage. These bulbs are so courageous and brave, returning each year to flower in their glory. The sight of the hepatica flower twinkling on its wiry, delicate stem can leave the poet silent. I believe in spring.

Spring has been in slow gear: blistering weather began in March followed by a long cool spell that stalled the season. The early flowers are having a long bloom time as if they were in a florist's refrigerator. Greigii tulips are out for weeks! What better than a spring that halts and waits rather than a rushed hot flush that opens all the blossoms, at once mixing seasons to the

point of distraction.

Yet there was some damage. We had one severe frost very late, and the cherry and magnolia blossoms were turned to rags. Rose leaves curled and browned. But this teaches us that plants survive. So we compost our plots and mulch the garden in the same way we tend our souls. After a wintry blast, beyond all hope of recovery, life returns.

April and May are the busiest months. The gardener's work spreads out before one like the crowns of plants pushing through the earth or the buzz of the bee first out to inspect a newly open blossom. It's a prayer really, a meditation, when one is fully engaged in the garden.

For a fresh garden, sow flats of zinnia, sunflower and cosmos, which you can plant after the all danger of frost has passed. When there are children about, it is good to have them rake the soil themselves and plant the seeds straight into the ground. Love yellow or blue? Create a color-themed garden and punctuate it with its complimentary color. Plant evergreens when in doubt (you will thank yourself come winter), and plant flowers in groups of threes and fives. I like to plant the sixth plant way

over to the side, as in an isosceles triangle. This simple formation mimics nature's way. Yew and box await a trim, and the roses will be wanting copious amounts of water. Feed them Rosetone and a bucket filled with water and epsom salts, and oh yes, weed.

From a bird's-eye view, the picture of busy gardeners worldwide brings hope to my mind. A hope and a prayer for a healthier earth.

Mary Colby is an artist and gardener whose studio is at 276 City Island Avenue. She can be reached at 917-804-4509 for consultation and design.

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Henry Douglas Coleman

A former Islander, the Reverend Henry Douglas Coleman, died peacefully on April 13, 2016, in Pearl River, NY. He was 79.

"Doug" was born in 1936 in St. John, New Brunswick, Canada, to the Reverend Henry and Laura Coleman. Doug came with his family to the United States when he was 10 years old. The family settled on City Island, where Doug's father served as the Rector of Grace Episcopal Church until his death in 1967.

Doug graduated from Trinity College and then attended the General Theological Seminary. He was ordained in 1961 and served a five-year curacy at St. John's Getty Square in Yonkers. In 1966 he was called to St. Paul's Church in New Rochelle, where he served for 20 years.

In 1987 that congregation merged with Trinity Church in New Rochelle, and Father Doug returned to his childhood community, following in his father's footsteps as Vicar of Grace Church, where he ministered until his retirement in 2004. He also worked in administration at Pilot Cove Manor for several years.

His first wife, Agnes, passed away in 2001 from complications of Alzheimer's disease. Doug remarried Marilynne (Jamieson) in 2004 and they moved to Pearl River, where he continued occasional parish ministry in retirement.

Doug was an avid sports fan and he especially enjoyed New York Rangers hockey, having played ice hockey as a youngster in Canada.

He is survived by his wife Marilynne and stepchildren Lisa, Rocky, Joyce, Mike, Cathy and Susan. He was predeceased by his sister Ruth Grosshart, but he is survived by his sister, Frances Parks, and his brother, Donald Coleman.

A Requiem Eucharist was held on April 18, 2016, at St. Stephen's Church in Pearl River. Cards and letters of condolence may be sent to Marilynne Coleman at 39 W. Lewis Avenue, Pearl River, NY 10965.



Photo by MARIA SWEICKI

This cross was made by a City Islander and displayed at Pete McConnell's wake.

Peter Francis McConnell

Peter McConnell, a longtime teacher at Public School 175 on City Island, passed away on April 13, 2016, at the age of 72.

He grew up in Queens, the son of Mary (Molly) and Peter Paul McConnell. He lived in Northport, on Long Island, with his wife, Barbara, and they raised three children: a daughter, Erin; a son Peter, who is a nurse and married to Jessie; and a son, Kevin Robert, who is a teacher.

Mr. McConnell was a school teacher for 37 years. Before coming to City Island, he worked at a school helping children with special needs. He taught at P. S. 175 for 27 years, until his retirement in June 2007. He was a member of the National Guard and a devout member of the Catholic Church.

In addition to his wife and children, Mr. McConnell is also survived by two sisters, Veronica Volkland and Claire McConnell.

A funeral Mass was held at Our Lady Queen of Martyr's Church in Centerport, NY, on April 19.

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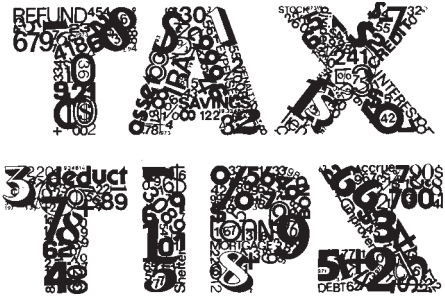
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From EDWARD D. HEBEN, C.P.A.

Compromising with the IRS

Anyone listening to the radio or watching sports or daytime TV gets bombarded with commercials touting the advertiser's expertise with getting the IRS to settle your tax debts for pennies on the dollar. These are especially common at this time of year, as some people can feel overwhelmed with their tax burden. At the very least, this is disingenuous, and at the very worst, it's outright fraudulent. So-called Offers in Compromise (OIC) with the IRS are complicated and arduous. Only 41 percent of OICs are accepted. An ongoing relationship with the IRS is critical to success with OICs.

Responsible accounting practitioners deal with the IRS on a daily basis. The first determination they make is to ascertain whether the IRS is even correct on the amount demanded from the taxpayer. A significant percent are plain wrong. Perhaps the statutes of limitations have run out. Or maybe the amount is correct but inflated with numerous penalties. Many times the penalties can be negotiated. Unfortunately, interest cannot because it is mandated by Congress.

If the tax amount demanded is correct, there are conditions that apply even in beginning the process. The IRS will not deal with any taxpayer already in bankruptcy, so if you are, the smoke must be cleared before you can even start the process; you must be current with all of your U.S. tax filings; and there must be doubt as to the possibility of collection.

The mechanics of making an offer are beyond the scope of this article, but suffice to say that responsible accountants have access to IRS tools that allow them to enter your income, assets and liabilities against what is owed, in order to determine a reasonable preliminary offer to the IRS.

The IRS has implemented a "Fresh Start" program, which has significantly changed the process including the following: The IRS has finally loosened its institutional resistance to allowing reasonable living expenses to factor into the OIC. Instead of the glacial pace of four to five years to process an OIC, the IRS now strives to approve an OIC in as little as two years. They now recognize your state or local government's claims as legitimate offsets to IRS demands and offer a significantly steeper discount to those taxpayers paying in five months or less. The longest payment schedule they will accept is 24 months.

Depending upon the debt, the IRS may force the sale of a business and/or other assets, but never your home. Which brings up the last critical point; if you have significant assets relative to your tax debt, the IRS will not accept an OIC. You will be better off working out an installment plan.

Clearly the "churn and burn" approach of the radio and television hucksters could cost you money at a time you can least afford it. A reasonable, structured approach by a responsible accounting practitioner should pay off in higher odds of acceptance with lower tax payments.

Identity Thieves Continue to Run Rampage

Once again in 2016, the IRS has cited tax-related identity theft as the number one tax fraud. Tax-related identity theft occurs when stolen Social Security num-

bers are used to file tax returns claiming fraudulent refunds. The incidence of tax-related identity theft is overwhelming. In years past, fraudulent returns were submitted by the dozens; now fraudulent returns are being submitted by the thousands. This implies cyber-gang activity on an industrial scale.

It is no longer a rare event when an accounting firm files a return only to discover that the tax return has already been filed. Identity thieves are quick and merciless. By the time the taxpayer has attempted to file, the IRS has paid the refund and the bank account it went to is long closed.

If your personal computer is not secure, your data can be stolen from you without your knowledge. Anyone who stores sensitive data on a personal computer without some type of security is no different than someone parking their car on a busy street with the keys taped to the hood. Thieves love people who make it easy.

Here is how to protect yourself digitally:

1. Protect your computer with a password.
2. Update your operating system and browser automatically to take advantage of security patches.
3. Purchase virus protection. It is one of those things in life that costs so very little relative to the benefit provided.
4. Two firewalls are not better than one. Usually virus protection software includes a firewall, but if it doesn't, use the firewall provided by your operating system. More is not better here. Two firewalls will not protect your computer any better; it will actually make your machine more vulnerable. You want one effective firewall.
5. Password protect your Wi-Fi.

Here is how to protect yourself socially:

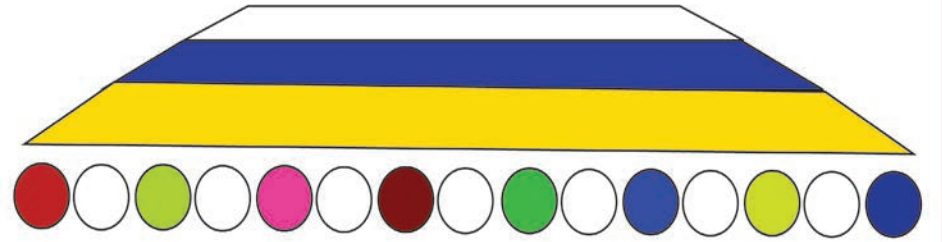
1. No one on social media needs to know your exact age. Exact birthdates are a key personal identification metric used by virtually every IRS and state taxing authority.
2. Do not brag about large purchases, new cars or expensive vacations. Identity thieves troll social media sites looking for this information.
3. Do not respond to private messages on any social media site unless you know the person sending it. Trojans, viruses and malware are as easy to send via personal messages as they are via email.
4. Which brings up the last and still the most popular way to break into a computer: e-mail. Do not open any email with an attachment sent by someone you do not know. Do not unsubscribe from an unsolicited e-mail. That tells the thieves that a real person owns a particular e-mail address. An extremely popular technique is to fake an e-mail from Amazon, eBay, PayPal, FedEx or the USPS with an attachment. Most major companies now send informational e-mails without attachments. Beware of embedded links. If you are not doing business with a particular firm, NEVER click on an embedded link. Put the e-mail aside and sign into the company's website manually via your web browser.

If you are a victim of tax-related identity theft, the IRS may issue you an identity protection personal identification number (IPPIN). In what can only be described as ironic, the online registration for IPPIN has been shut down while the IRS tries to figure out how to secure archaic servers. Currently, there is a cumbersome snail mail system.

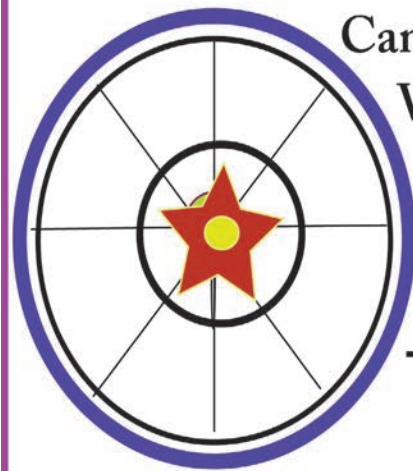
The benefits of an interconnected society are enormous. Unfortunately, cyber criminals electronically troll the Internet looking for vulnerable computers. Protect yourself and your valuable personal information.

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CITY ISLAND HOUSE FOR SALE BY OWNER: 85 Winters Street. Raised ranch with attached garage 50 x 100 lot on beach block. 3 bedrooms, 1-1/2 baths, hw gas heat, wood burning fireplace, wood floors, finished, heated basement with built in wet bar. Second kitchen and 1/2 bath. House has 13 x 16 trex deck, garden area and pear tree. New 40 year roof, bedroom windows, basement windows and water heater. Move in condition. Call for appointment. 718-885-1510, 914-438-4461, 201-401-0731. Openhouse, Sunday, 5/22/2016 from 1-4 p.m.

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JUST REDUCED \$510k, 151 Pilot Street. Superb condition, fully renovated duplex: 2 bedrooms, 3-1/2 baths. large EIK,LR w/fireplace, finished basement + on-site parking. Beautiful hardwood floors. Central air, updated electric, new plumbing, Anderson replacement windows, alarm system. Roof is 6 years old. Low taxes. Must see! Call Agent, Maria @ Atlantic Emeritus Realty for an appointment. 718-885-0017 (cell) or 718-885-0088 (office).

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CILL

Continued from page 1

was packing up and distributing uniforms or letting a bunch of crazy coaches in her house for the annual draft, John's wife, Tracy, was there for us, and we would like to thank her and present her with this plaque for everything she's done over the years," he added appreciatively.

As the weather warms up, head down to Ambrosini Field next to P.S. 175 and catch some of the exciting games between the following teams:

Minor League Teams and Coaches

Seafood City: Dominic Esposito, Richie Mueller and Arturo Mazzeo
Jacks Bait & Tackle: Robert Riordan

and Robert Howard
JP's: Victor Lopez and Greg Penny
Local 79 Laborers: Brian Kenny and John Burton

Major League Teams and Coaches

American Legion Post 156: Mike Prohaska, James Goonan and Jim McGaugan
Sammy's Fish Box: Maria Piri and Paul Mazzella
Gilder Scholarship: Anthony Piri and Lou Lomonaco

In addition, the t-ball teams will be coordinated by Greg Clancy.

Mr. Esposito summed up the CILL goals: "We want to make sure that all our players know that by working hard and believing in themselves, they can hit home runs on the ball field and excel in the classroom."

The CILL can always use extra help, so anyone interested in volunteering may contact the organization at cityislandlittleleague@gmail.com.



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Michael Higginbotham and Casey Quinn were wed on April 16, 2016.

Long-distance birthday wishes go out to former Horton Street resident Lyla MacDonald, who turns 15 on May 23. Lyla now lives in Santa Cruz, CA, and hopes to return to City Island for a visit this summer with her father, Eric, to catch up with family and friends.

Best wishes for continued happiness to the Sailmaker's John and Judy Iovieno, who will celebrate their 26th anniversary on May 12.

Happy birthday greetings on May 1 to Minneford Avenue's Diane Duryea, with love from the gang at Atlantic Emeritus Realty. Have a great day!

It was a beautiful day for a wedding as Casey Quinn and Michael Higginbotham exchanged vows at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church on April 16. Casey is the daughter of Islanders Patti and Kevin Quinn, and Michael is the son of Celia

and Michael Higginbotham. The couple honeymooned in Aruba.

Happy birthday to King Avenue's Jackie Kyle Kall, who will turn 91 years young on May 26.

Keep up the good work to Winter Street's Bobby Swieciki, who will celebrate his 10-year anniversary with the U.S. Coast Guard on May 2. Semper Paratus!

Birthday wishes to Pilot Cove's Terry Carmody, who will blow out 86 candles on May 8. With love from your family and friends.

Anniversary greetings on May 10 to Schofield Street's Rose and Bob Booth, with love from your children and grandchildren.

Happy birthday to Peter Lenz, who will celebrate on May 19. Your family wishes you all the best!

Happy birthday greetings across the miles to Gene Jones, in Oceanside, CA. We share a mutual May 9 birthday and are both former clam diggers, with love from his cousin Barbara (Haas) Lynch of Long Island.

A warm welcome to Jason Girardi and his mother, Brittany, who recently moved to Schofield Street. Jason's grandmother, "Mema," is so glad to have them living close by.

A happy belated shout out to our son, Phil, whose big day was April 1. So happy we celebrated early with everyone all together. Love, Mom and Dad.

A very happy birthday on May 28 to Patrice Ortega of To Go Express, with love from your family and friends.

Belated April birthday wishes to Bay Street's Rick DeWitt, the *Island Current* photographer. We look forward to another year in photos of City Island events.

Mike Rauh was part of the announcer team for the three-day Indoor Marathon Weekend at the New Balance Track and Field Center in April.

And a very happy Mother's Day to all our hardworking mothers and grandmothers.

Maria Swieciki

BEST BINGO EVER!



Photos by MATT PANZA

The American Legion Women's Auxiliary annual Cancer Bingo set some records this year on April 22, 2016. This is the first time they held the City Island event outside the Legion Post, as they had more than 250 attendees. Organizers Anne Marie Rogers, president; Laura Booth, secretary; and Joanne Valletta and Karen Figuera, co-chairs, were thrilled with the response to this charitable event (top photo above). They gave a shout-out to chef Michael Proietti for helping to organize the event and a special thank-you to the Morris Yacht Club for allowing use of the space. The plethora of prizes given out to the shouts of "Bingo!" delighted the many attendees.



Mike Rauh interviewing racer Cristyne Nicholas on April 15, 2016.

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